Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 273 | SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Woman busted for alleged marriage fraud scheme. **PAGE 3**

DPS has new records, fingerprinting systems. **PAGE 5**

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

14 DAYS before federalization

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Which tandem will you vote for in the runoff election?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of November 13, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Anti-Terror

Federal prosecutors took steps Thursday to seize four U.S. mosques and a skyscraper owned by a Muslim organization.

NATION...Page 10

Best Fighter

The best little fighter you will probably ever see had the seat of honor in his grand arrival at the MGM Grand.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

ELECTION BOARD CHANGES DECISION

CEC: 4 initiatives all passed, ratified

The Commonwealth Election Commission board of directors, led by chair Frances M. Sablan, front left, presides over yesterday's board meeting wherein the commissioners—after a new legal research—certified that the three legislative initiatives and one popular initiative placed on the ballots succeeded in getting the required number of votes to pass, contrary to their earlier position that voters rejected the initiatives. Also in photo is the commission's executive director, Robert Guerrero, front right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the urging of concerned citizens, the Commission on Election revisited yesterday the rules governing the computation of votes for initiatives and came up with a new decision: all four initiatives that were on the Nov. 7 ballot are now deemed passed and ratified by voters.

See CEC on Page 4

October visitor arrivals down 31 pct.

October 2009 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were down 31 percent compared to October 2008, a drop forecasted two months ago for these low travel demand "shoulder" months before the peak yearend holidays.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 20,267 visitors last month compared to 29,611 in October 2008.

"As we forecasted in September, this period leading to mid-December is going to be very challenging for the Northern Marianas, as airlines have reduced flights due to the low shoulder season travel period," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "While the MVA has maintained some flights during this period by strategically redirecting funding from other tourism programs to airline incentives, these shoulder months are still the slowest travel period of the year for all

See VISITOR on Page 4

Juan 'Pan' not endorsing Fitial and Hofschneider

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guerrero

Former independent gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero said yesterday he will not endorse either Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party or Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider of the Republican Party in the Nov. 23 gubernatorial runoff election.

Instead, Guerrero called on voters, including his former supporters, to vote based on which candidate they believe "represents a better future for themselves, their families, and the Com-

See JUAN on Page 4

Multiple-entry CW-1 visa for guest workers sought

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has started seeking ways to make it less difficult for nonresident workers with valid CNMI work permits to secure CW-1 visa in U.S. embassies for them to be able to return as workers in the CNMI more than once.

Sablan, who has been on Saipan since Monday, said he has begun meeting with key U.S. State Department and Homeland Security officials

See CW-1 VISA on Page 4

Local

Symposium for 'doing business with the military'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businesses and other entities that want to avail of contracting and business opportunities with the military are encouraged to attend Wednesday's symposium sponsored by the Office of U.S. Defense Representative for the CNMI, Guam, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Similar events have also been held in Guam in light of the $15-billion, multi-year military buildup resulting from the relocation of some 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam, plus some 17,000 family members, and up to 20,000 federal construction workers.

The "Guam/CNMI Military Contracting Opportunities Symposium" will be held from 8am to 5pm at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

It is being co-hosted by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, and the CNMI government.

Deputy Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar said yesterday the symposium is "important" for anyone wanting to do business with the military.

ON THE NET
www.commerce.gov.mp

Topics will include U.S. military contracting, business opportunities available through military construction projects, and the military buildup.

Capt. Peter S. Lynch, commanding officer of NAVFAC Marianas and a captain at the U.S. Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, will be presenting an update and opportunities on the Guam military buildup.

Roy Tsutsui, executive director of the Joint Region Marianas, will be presenting on the Office of U.S. Defense Representative for the CNMI, Guam, Palau and the FSM.

Another resource person will be Vera Topasna, program manager of the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center, who will give a program overview.

Other speakers include Carl Peterson, who will present the Guam Chamber of Commerce's perspective on the military buildup; Rosalinda Watson, contracting officer at Fleet Industrial Supply Center Detachment Marianas; James Martinez, executive director of the Guam Contractors Association; Lt. Cdr. Darren Hale, Pacific Command plans officer; and Cdr. Keith Barton, assistant operations officer with NAVFAC Marianas.

Incoming Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan and incoming vice president Jim Arenovski will be making a presentation on "What the CNMI can offer the military and prime contractors." Jesse Sablan of the CNMI Contractors Association will also be introducing the organization at the symposium.

A complete copy of the program and the registration form can be accessed at the CNMI Department of Commerce website, www.commerce.gov.mp.

NMC Grazing Academy workshops on Tinian

The second series of workshops from the Northern Marianas College's Marianas Grazing Academy will be held on Nov. 17, 18, and 19 at the college's Tinian instructional site. Workshops will be from 9am to 3:30pm on all three days.

The Academy is aimed at building local agricultural capacity and educating farmers and ranchers about increasing the economic viability of their products.

The workshops, which require no registration or participation fee, will include training on pasture and livestock management issues, including forage production, grazing management planning, weed control, forage selection, animal health and treatment practices, meat quality and marketing, and mobile slaughter facilities.

The Academy, a project organized through a collaborative effort between the NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam, seeks to enhance the production of high quality meat products, which can serve to improve food sustainability through the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices in grazing and livestock management.

"We're really excited to be collaborating with the universities from Hawaii, the Virgin Is-

See SYMPOSIUM on Page 4

Woman busted for alleged marriage fraud scheme

Defendant married thrice to aliens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Agents from the Office of the Attorney General's Investigative Unit arrested yesterday a woman who was allegedly engaged in a marriage fraud scheme.

Delora Taman Bhuiyan, 30, also known as Delora Taman Gang, a U.S. citizen, was arrested for marriage fraud, document fraud, conspiracy to commit document fraud, bigamy, and perjury.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos imposed a $200 cash and $1,800 unsecured bond for Bhuiyan's temporary release.

OAG investigator Erwin Flores stated in his report that Bhuiyan married three alien residents, allowing these aliens to obtain Immediate Relative status.

Flores said it was then lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez who officiated Bhuiyan's latest wedding—to Zheng Gang, a Chinese national—on Jan. 7, 2009.

Flores said that on that same day, Bhuiyan executed an application at the Division of Immigration Office in San Antonio for an IR entry permit to enable Gang to gain an IR status as her spouse.

As proof, Bhuiyan and Gang presented a marriage certificate, Saipan identification card, birth certificate, Gang's police clearance, Gang's passport, and a copy of a divorce decree to that of her first husband, Mohammed Mokbul Hossuin.

Flores said that Gang departed the CNMI on April 1, 2009, and had not returned to the CNMI as of this date.

Flores said Immigration officials found out that Bhuiyan's reported marriage to Gang was questionable based on Labor and Immigration Information Data System records, which indicate that she is currently still married to Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan, a Bangladeshi.

Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan also submitted a renewal for his IR entry permit on March 17, 2009. His application for IR renewal was accompanied by a copy of a divorce decree to that of Hossuin.

Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan indicated in his IR application that he is still the spouse of Delora Bhuiyan.

Marriage records show that Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman officiated Delora Bhuiyan and Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan's marriage on March 28, 2007.

During an interview on Nov. 2, Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan stated that he and Delora Bhuiyan have been living together in Chalan Piao since their marriage, Flores said.

Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan claimed that he and Delora Bhuiyan have been staying together as of this date.

Flores said he learned through investigation that Delora Bhuiyan had filed a complaint at the Superior Court on Jan. 30, 2009, to divorce Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan.

Delora Bhuiyan indicated in the complaint that she and Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan have been separated since October 2007.

Flores learned that Delora Bhuiyan had been divorced from her first husband, Hossuin, since Feb. 2, 2006.

Immigration records show that Hossuin departed the CNMI on Jan. 27, 2006.

DPH gets 4.3K new H1N1 vaccines

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has received a total of 4,300 H1N1 flu vaccines, a second shipment that will be specifically provided to students in public and private schools.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said yesterday that the CNMI has already received a total of 6,700 vaccines since the first shipment last month of 2,400.

The CNMI, he said, is expected to get more vaccines to cover the demands of the entire population.

Of the newly arrived vaccine shipment, 1,500 are flu mists while the rest are actual shots.

Flu mists are vaccines that are administered by spraying on the nose. These are mostly for kids.

Health officials met with Public School System officials last Thursday to provide school administrators with information about the vaccines.

The first vaccine shipment was given to those on the department's priority list, which include the island's pregnant women and healthcare providers.

Villagomez, along with Medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom and program analyst Roxanne Diaz, said the new shipment will target students and school personnel.

They said waivers for parents to sign will be passed out to individual schools before any injection is done on students.

Although the vaccines are free of charge, parents have the option to avail of the shots in some designated private clinics for a minimal fee.

Brostrom emphasized that taking the vaccine is completely voluntary and not mandatory.

Villagomez aims to complete the vaccination of all students and school personnel in December.

Once schools are done, the remaining vaccines, including future shipments, will be provided to the rest of the community.

"Once we complete this group, we will open the vaccines to the public," Villagomez said, adding that no child will receive the shot without the parent's consent.

Health officials described the vaccines as both "safe and effective" and no serious side effects have been noted so far.

Since the spread of H1N1 worldwide, there have been no virus-related deaths recorded in the CNMI.

Villagomez said the department is working on the possibility of sending samples to other laboratories for testing. At the moment, DPH send its sample tests to a San Antonio Texas laboratory. It takes a while for DPH to receive the results.

"Demographic-wise, it's appearing that H1N1 is still prevalent on the island," Villagomez said, adding that this is why they are still giving out the H1N1 flu shots.

Public schools have an estimated 11,000 students while private schools have an average of 2,500 kids yearly.

Health officials reiterated the importance of following the Flu Watch steps to protect everyone from the seasonal or the H1N1 flu.

Munson orders U.S. Marshal to return ex-convict to Guam

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson directed yesterday the U.S. Marshal's Office to return to Guam an ex-convict who has been cleared of charges that he was involved in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Munson directed the U.S. Marshal's Office to bring Vincent Cabrera back to Guam at the Marshal's earliest convenience.

Munson said the court had already dismissed the case against Cabrera and that it was the U.S. Marshal's Office that originally brought him from Guam to Saipan after the charges were filed.

The judge issued the order after Cabrera's counsel, Loren Sutton, asked the court to approve the payment of a one-way plane ticket for Cabrera to return to Guam.

Sutton said that, since the case has been dismissed on motion by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the return ticket should be paid for by the U.S. government.

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman granted the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the case against Cabrera.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto asked the court to dismiss the complaint against Cabrera, saying the U.S. government may proceed with a probation revocation in lieu of criminal charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

JUAN

From Page 1

monwealth."

"As soon as it was clear that I would not be in the runoff election, I urged supporters to make their own choices about whom to support—Ben and Eloy or Heinz and Arnold," Guerrero said in a one-page statement.

Guerrero issued the statement a day after his former running mate, House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, formally endorsed Fitial and his running mate, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Key members of the Committee to Elect Juan Pan and Joe Camacho, including the executive committee chairman Clyde Norita, and other independent candidates, also began endorsing the Fitial-Inos tandem on Thursday.

Guerrero, who ranked third in the four-way gubernatorial race, said those who supported his campaign are strong-minded individuals who followed their conscience and voted for an independent candidate.

"They now need to go and talk to the remaining candidates, look at their platforms and their histories, and then vote with their minds and their hearts. They did that once when they voted for me, and I hope they will do it again in the runoff," Guerrero said.

Toward the end of his statement, Guerrero reiterated that he would not publicly endorse either candidate for the runoff election.

He added that he will make no further public statements in this regard.

Another former independent gubernatorial candidate, Ramon "Kumoi" S. Deleon Guerrero, said he will share his decision next week after meeting with all his former supporters.

Covenant Party publicity committee chair Charles Reyes, when asked for comment, yesterday said the Fitial-Inos team "respect Juan Pan's decision."

"They especially respect the open support of all, or virtually all, of Juan Pan's independent political candidates, including Joe Camacho, George Camacho, Fred Guerrero, Vicky Guerrero, Rita Dela Cruz, Mike Camacho, and others," Reyes added.

The Hofschneider-House Speaker Arnold Palacios team could not be reached for comment.

Both Hofschneider and Fitial earlier separately said they are confident they will be able to get the support of independent candidates and supporters.

A runoff election will be held because neither Fitial nor Hofschneider got at least 50 percent plus 1 of the votes cast in Saturday's general elections.

Hofschneider beat Fitial by eight votes, 4,900-4,982, marking the closest gubernatorial race in CNMI history.

The Republicans advocate "change in leadership," while the Covenants say they have "proven leadership."

CEC

From Page 1

The commission also certified that Tobias Aldan won the race for the Northern Islands mayoralty, after recounting the votes for Ramona Rebuenog, who lost by only one vote to Aldan.

In a meeting at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, the election board unanimously voted to change its decision on House legislative initiatives 15-3 and 16-11, Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11, and the popular initiative Open Government Act of 2007.

The board had earlier ruled that all four initiatives were not ratified as these did not get the required number of votes during the general election.

Rep. Tina Sablan, the author of the OGA popular initiative, expressed relief with the actions taken by the commission. She said the presentation and the clarification on the initiatives would prevent a bigger confusion in the future for related cases.

Election board chair Frances M. Sablan said that, although the circumstances were "hard to swallow" for the board, they still opted to correct the error in the interest of the public.

"We reconsidered our decision… and we followed the advice of our legal counsel on the initiatives," Frances M. Sablan said. "I know it's hard to swallow, but we figured out that is the best thing to do. If there's an error, then we will accordingly correct that error."

Percentages

The board's legal counsel, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, made a presentation on all four initiatives and how these are ratified.

She clarified that the following are the percentage that each initiative needed to pass: 51 percent for the three legislative initiatives and a two-thirds vote or 66.7 percent for the popular initiative.

Based on her computation, Hassel-Shearer said that HLI 15-3 got 59.27 percent of affirmative votes; HLI 16-11 got 58.67 percent; and HLI 16-11 got 57.07 percent.

The Open Government Act initiative, meantime, got 68.61 percent of affirmative votes against 31.39 percent of negative votes.

Hassel-Shearer also made references to the history of previous elections, opinions of the court, and analysis of the Constitution of the CNMI in recommending the reconsideration of the commission's early decision.

The Open Government Act of 2007 proposes to subject the Legislature to the Act. HLI 16-11 seeks to prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the general fund except for appropriations. SLI 16-11 requires the holding of regular general elections in even-numbered years. HLI 15-3 requires a high school student to be a member of the Board of Education.

'Striking departure from past practice'

Rep. Tina Sablan challenged the board's earlier decision on the initiatives in a letter she submitted yesterday, asking the commission to reconsider its decision.

She said the Election Commission and the Office of Attorney General relied upon the total number of ballots cast, 13,874, as the denominator for determining whether each of the initiatives met the constitutionally required percentage of votes for ratification, rather than the total number of valid votes actually cast on each of the initiatives.

"The use of the total number of ballots cast, rather than the total number of valid votes actually cast on each of the initiatives, is a striking departure from past CEC practice, and appears to be inconsistent with the CNMI Constitution and CNMI election law," Sablan said in her letter to the commission.

According to the election results certified by the commission, the popular initiative to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature received 7,330 "yes" votes and 3,354 "no" votes; HLI 15-3 received 6,408 "yes" votes and 4,404 "no" votes; HLI 16-11 received 6,309 "yes" votes and 4,444 "no" votes; and SLI 16-11 received 6,160 "yes" votes and 4,634 "no" votes.

Sablan said the total number of valid votes actually cast for each of the initiatives—not the total number of ballots cast in the general election—should be the denominator used in determining whether or not each of the initiatives on the 2009 ballot has been ratified.

Moreover, she said, the total number of valid votes actually cast should not include nonvotes, overvotes, or spoiled votes.

Sablan added that CNMI election law also requires that the CEC count votes for specific offices or initiatives, not ballots. A spoiled vote or overvote on one office or initiative does not spoil the entire ballot.

Sablan said a "vote cast" is the same as a "vote cast and counted."

"A 'vote cast' is not a 'ballot cast,' nor is it a nonvote, an overvote, or a spoiled vote. With respect to initiatives, only valid votes clearly and properly marked in either the affirmative or the negative on each initiative should be included in the final tally of "votes cast" in determining whether or not each of the initiatives has been ratified," she said.

VISITOR

From Page 1

of our major markets."

The primary market of Japan dropped 47 percent to 8,602 arrivals last month compared to 16,193 in October 2008. The decline is due to the 56-percent decrease in air seats, and to a lesser extent, the H1N1 virus once again rearing its head as a deterrent to outbound travel by Japanese. In October 2009, there were four flights per day from Japan. However, in October 2009 air seats were reduced from Narita, Nagoya and Osaka.

Arrivals from the primary market of South Korea dropped 45 percent to 4,813 last month compared to 8,715 in October 2008. Like Japan, air seats from South Korea have dropped, registering a 20-percent loss in October 2009.

"After 13 months of a 'struggling' outbound market in Korea due primarily to the economic downturn and weak currency, the industry thought it was finally seeing some light as the market has begun to rebound recently. However, the H1N1 crisis is yet again making headline news, putting the industry in fear again and hitting all outbound travel from Korea to all destinations," said Tenorio.

According to Korea media reports, Saipan is considered a "safety zone" for the H1N1, but total outbound travel demand from Korea has collapsed as travelers fear getting the H1N1 influenza at crowded airports.

With the resumption of charter flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou this summer, the secondary market of the People's Republic of China was a bright spot for arrivals in October, posting a 103-percent increase of 3,846 arrivals in October 2009 compared to 1,891 arrivals last year. Visitors from China will continue to be allowed to visit the Northern Marianas without a U.S. visa even after the islands' immigration system is federalized on Nov. 28, 2009. Potential visitors will be prescreened by the Department of Homeland Security.

Likewise, visitors from Russia will continue to be allowed to visit the Northern Marianas without U.S. visas through the same DHS pre-screening process. Russian arrivals to the islands held firm in October, registering 377 arrivals compared to 380 in October 2008.

Arrivals from the United States rose 74 percent (909) bolstered by 420 visitors arriving aboard two military ships. Also posting gains were Guam (up 2 percent to 1,520), the Philippines (up 18 percent to 132) and Taiwan (up 12 percent).

Based on the latest airline projections available, the MVA projects continued weakness in arrivals in November before a full return of suspended flights in December, and a further increase in flights by both Asiana Airlines and Delta Airlines scheduled for the first quarter of 2010, resulting in a strong expected start to the New Year. ***(MVA)***

SYMPOSIUM

From Page 2

lands, and Guam to make more training and professional development opportunities available for our farmers and ranchers," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

The Academy also seeks to provide local farmers, ranchers, technical resource personnel and other interagency collaborators with assistance and guidance in planning and developing special local projects to improve the economic viability of grazing activities in the CNMI.

To register for the workshops, contact Dr. Allen Sabaldica at 433-2576 for the Tinian session.

The Marianas Grazing Academy project has been made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CSREES Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers. ***(NMC)***

CW-1 VISA

From Page 1

on ways to reduce the burden for nonresident workers applying for a CW-1 visa in U.S. embassies and consulates.

"We need to set up a protocol to make it less difficult for people to get visas to return to the Northern Marianas if they are employees. Obviously, the largest group of people working here are from the Philippines and the largest U.S. Embassy in the world is in the Philippines," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Among other things, he's working on a way for CNMI guest workers to be able to secure a "multiple-entry" CW-1 visa.

Sablan said this is a "work in progress."

"Let me make it clear. There's nothing that's already been worked out. But we started the conversation. We already know who in the Philippines to talk to. They have been informed of the need for us to start this discussion," he said.

Sablan and two other Democrats and one Republican from the U.S. House of Representatives were supposed to meet with key consular officers at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines but this was cancelled.

Next week, however, Sablan will hold a teleconference with key consular officers at the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

"I am not promising anything but I started a conversation, I started the work and had meetings with key people at the State Department and Homeland Security. The key people here are the consular officers in Manila," he said.

He added that if a system is set up in the Philippines, this will make it easy for the other Asian countries to set up a similar process to make it less difficult for CNMI nonresident workers to secure a CW-1 visa.

Sablan said a system may not be worked out by Nov. 28, the start of transition to federal immigration.

Nonresident workers can exit the CNMI any time during the transition period from Nov. 28, 2009, to Dec. 31, 2014, but they cannot re-enter the islands using their valid CNMI entry permit.

This is based on the interim final rule on the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services published in the Oct. 27 Federal Register. It is open for public comments for 30 days.

The "CW" in the CW-1 visa stands for "Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker."

Starting Nov. 28, CNMI employers can file a petition for a transitional worker using Form I-29CW. The processing could take up to 60 days.

Only after a "notice of approval" for the transitional status is issued will a foreign worker be able to apply at a U.S. embassy or consulate for a CW-1 visa to be able to re-enter the CNMI as a foreign worker. Those with U.S. tourist visas can use these visas to enter the CNMI as "tourists" but not as CNMI guest workers.

There is also a possibility that an applicant can be denied a CW-1 visa and therefore won't be able to re-enter the CNMI and continue working despite possessing a valid CNMI work and entry permit.

While on Saipan this week, Sablan met with officials from different agencies, including the Public School System. He also joined the Veterans Day ceremony on Wednesday. He also met with other officials to abreast them of issues in Washington, D.C. that affect the CNMI, including the health care reform legislation and immigration.

share the power of a wish℠

"I want to go shopping!"

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at
865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza
Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

DPS has new records, fingerprinting systems

The Department of Public Safety has implemented a new Records Management System and Fingerprint System, according to Police Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela yesterday.

The RMS program is a new computer software that manages police reports and DPS personnel records, he said.

The funding for this project was provided by three granting agencies: the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency's Byrne Justice Grant, and Department of Homeland Security

The money funded the infrastructure that includes:

■ RMS: Records Management System

■ CAD: Computer Aided Dispatch (911 and radio dispatch system)

■ MM: Mobile Messages

■ FBS: Field-Based Reporting. Laptop computers in police cars with wireless transmission enables police officers in the field to pull up pictures of suspects, violators, and victims on record, and notification of anyone with outstanding warrants or conditions.

■ The purchase of new personal computers and laptops (tough books) for patrol cars.

Tudela said it took over nine months of negotiations to go through the procurement process for this half-million-dollar program.

ID Networks was awarded the contract to install the system and train DPS personnel on how to use the new system. Training began last week with four-hour block trainings for each police officer.

"There are over 115 police officers who have been scheduled last week and this week to learn the new system," said Tudela.

The old system—Law Enforcement Management Information System—was scheduled to be turned off last night, Nov. 12, at 11pm, and the new RMS system was to go online at the same time.

"This will be done simultaneously with the old records migrated into the new system," said Tudela.

MOTORCYCLE TRAINING
A police officer maneuvers his way around traffic cones during a Department of Public Safety motorcycle training for four traffic enforcement officers near the Saipan International Airport yesterday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Live Fingerprint Scanning Equipment

Last month, DPS started using its new Live Scan Fingerprinting system at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Records and Firearms Section. The finger printing equipment is valued at over $40,000. Three machines were purchased for the CNMI, one for each island. The equipment for Rota and Tinian will be stationed at their airports and shared between DPS, and Immigration.

The grant from Homeland Security was used to purchase the live scan finger printing equipment. It is an electronic system use to digitally record and manage fingerprints.

The contractor that installed the system is also from ID Networks.

Tudela said this is a two-phase program. The first phase is to digitally collect fingerprint records. The second is to purchase the forensics Automated Fingerprint Identification System, which will enable DPS to take unknown latent prints and digitally download it into the system. This will allow AFIS to cross check the fingerprints against prints already in the system and make matches.

"The new systems are a product of the Criminal Justice Information System Network Group's hard work," said Tudela.

This board is chaired by Judge Ramona V. Manglona, with the help of project coordinator Sgt. James Deleon Guerrero. Local law enforcement agencies involved include DPS, Department of Corrections, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services, CNMI Board of Parole, and the CNMI Office of Probation. ***(POII. Jason T. Tarkong, DPS PIO)***

Kunming TV crew films docu on NMI tourism

The Marianas Visitors Authority is hosting three writers and photographers this week from the Chinese Kunming TV Tourist Channel. Kunming TV produces a weekly tourist program that introduces new destinations for Chinese travelers. The program is seen in Kunming City and throughout most of Yunan Province, reaching over one million households. The television crew is visiting Tinian and Saipan, discovering for themselves the attractions of this resort destination in order to showcase it to potential visitors.

The MVA developed a full schedule for the television crew for their Nov. 10-13 visit, and will escort them on a variety of indoor and outdoor activities while basking in the islands' tropical weather.

The group will enjoy the activities and award-winning beaches and clear waters of Managaha Island, as well as visit Bird Island, Banzai Cliff, Last Command Center, and the Grotto. A tour of the jungle will also be included, and the day will be topped off by a dinner cruise on the Stars & Stripes sailboat.

Two full days of their visit will be spent exploring the attractions offered on Tinian. While there, the television crew will enjoy a deep sea trolling trip, as well as an indigenous dance show and local barbeque. They will spend one day touring the island and shooting footage for their documentary, including coverage of Saipan Marianas Aviation School flights and the historic North Field sites.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce the Northern Mariana Islands to a large number of potential Chinese visitors," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This documentary will likely be seen by over one million people. We welcome additional Chinese tourists; their contribution to the NMI economy is significant and necessary."

It's anticipated that the travel documentary will be aired in China in early December**.** ***(MVA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Navy, Air Force set exercises on FDM

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct live-fire and laser training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Nov. 16 to 21, from 7am to 1am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and dates indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

KHS PTSA meeting, report card distribution

Attention to parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: There will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009, from 6pm to 7pm, at the School's cafeteria.

The first quarter report card for school year 2009-2010 is set for Thursday, Nov. 19, from 3:30pm to 6pm. Report cards will be distributed at all classes. Students, please advise your parents/guardians on all your classroom number, with teacher's name. Class schedule will be half-dayonly. Students will be released at noon. ***(PR)***

Guam responders rescue hikers in trouble

GUAM—Search and Rescue Group Guam responded Thursday evening to a report of six missing hikers in the vicinity of Gua'ali River, Piti.

A helicopter was asked to pick up one of the hikers who had a severe injury to his ankle and was unable to hike out on his own.

Guam Fire and Rescue dispatched a land rescue team to begin searching for the hikers. After over an hour of searching the mountains, jungle and river the GFR Rescue Team located the hikers and with the help of Coast Guard Sector Guam vectored in a Naval helicopter to perform a 100-foot hoist of the injured hiker. The helicopter quickly brought the injured hiker to the Naval Hospital where he was then transferred to Guam Memorial Hospital.

The remaining five hikers were escorted out by the GFR land rescue team. ***(USCG)***

SAIPAN COOL WATER INC.
P.O. Box 504466 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. No. 235-2665 (cool) • 235-0893

NOTICE OF CONCERNS

This is to inform the General Public that Saipan Cool Water & Ice. Inc. is now under new Management, that any financial liability or any other concerns that you may have with our company is giving you one month effective November 13, 2009 until December 13, 2009 to please visit our main office located at Kannat Tabla or call 235-2665 for the settlement of all concern.

Any concerns reported after the said date will not be entertained by the new Management.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and understanding. And its been a pleasure doing business with you.

Respectfully Yours,

/s/ Kim, Kyonam
President, Saipan Cool Water & Ice Inc.

Happy Holidays!
Avoid the Holiday stress of decorating.
Fully decorated Christmas trees, garlands, swags and centerpieces
available for RENT.
We decorate, deliver and set-up in your houses or offices.
Come and visit our displays.
Open Monday thru Sunday
Design Florist
Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan
ORDER NOW! While Supplies Last
For more information, please call 235-1414 • 234-5593 or 235-8572

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 273

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Guarding the ranks

Did Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the accused gunman in Thursday's rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, commit mass murder because of a mental breakdown or because of hatred for his own country fueled by Islamic radicalism—or some combination of the two? We don't have all the answers yet, but whatever the explanation turns out to be, we do know this: The carnage is not a reflection on all the other Muslims serving in the U.S. military. President Barack Obama made that point Saturday, albeit obliquely, when he noted that those who have fought for this country include "Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus and nonbelievers."

Speaking more plainly than the president, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. warned of "a backlash against some of our Muslim soldiers," adding that "it would be a shame if our diversity became a casualty as well."

We wholeheartedly agree with the president and Casey. But it would be equally tragic if the armed services allowed an insistence on religious tolerance to stand in the way of detecting and rooting out extremism in the ranks. It's essential to avoid profiling people on the basis of their religion, but that doesn't require us to deny the existence in this country, as elsewhere, of a dangerous and anti-American ideology that identifies itself with Islam and seeks to recruit believing Muslims. If the U.S. military receives evidence that some of its members have succumbed to the siren song of extremism, it must investigate. Not to do so would be foolhardy. But it must be done in a way that doesn't treat adherence to Islam itself as a security risk. It would be grossly unfair, for example, to subject all Muslim recruits to special screening, as some commentators on the right have proposed.

Nor should Islamic extremism be the only noxious ideology monitored by the military. The Department of Homeland Security came under misguided criticism from veterans this year when it released a report warning that some disaffected veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were especially susceptible to the lures of right-wing extremism. That common-sense conclusion also applies to current and prospective members of the armed forces.

A long-standing Defense Department directive decrees that "military personnel must reject participation in organizations that espouse supremacist causes, ... advocate the use of force and violence, or otherwise engage in efforts to deprive individuals of their civil rights."

Policing a service member's participation in an extremist group becomes more delicate when the organization is a religious one. But if we're talking about involvement in a mosque where violence is preached—or in a white supremacist group that calls itself a church—that's not a private matter. The military can recognize and act on that fact without presuming that every Muslim is an extremist.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Reshaping an Asian partnership

By SHEILA A. SMITH
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is senior fellow for Japan studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The historic political transition under way in Tokyo is rattling Washington and has produced a puzzling rigidity in an administration known for its capacity for reaching out to the world. President Obama's visit to Asia offers a much-needed opportunity to calm and energize the U.S.-Japan relationship.

In Tokyo, the president should aim at restoring faith in Washington's ability to adjust to Japan's new politics. Old habits of lecturing Tokyo on its responsibilities must end.

For his part, the new Japanese prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, needs to find policy solutions that address today's problems rather than yesterday's politics and make clear who is calling the shots. Speculation abounds on who is making decisions on alliance policy, as recent statements from such key figures as the defense minister, the foreign affairs minister and the prime minister shift and even occasionally conflict.

Much like the Obama administration, Japan's new policy group is learning to act as a team. But this is not a typical transition. The August electoral rout by the Democratic Party of Japan, ending almost a half-century of nearly uninterrupted single-party rule, represents the first real effort to implement a two-party alternating system of government. The scale of the DPJ's win (308 of 480 seats in the Diet) suggests a real desire for change, and public dissatisfaction with the government remains intense. Japan's economy and social welfare infrastructure badly need attention. The conservative Liberal Democratic Party lost because it was unable to meet demands for good governance, and the DPJ will be voted out in four years if its members do not produce visible results.

In the short term, there is a real danger that the U.S.-Japan alliance will become a pawn in Japanese political rivalries. The diplomatic partnership cannot be seen as controlled by one political party and should not reflect only one party's agenda. U.S. policy-makers should be mindful of those in Japan who seek to use the alliance for their own political ends.

Nor should Washington underestimate the tremendous expectations among Japanese voters. For years U.S. policy-makers have bemoaned Japan's lack of ability to act and change. Now, as Tokyo announces new initiatives, the perception is growing in Japan that Washington fears the potential adjustments that real change might suggest for alliance management.

The Hatoyama government started off badly with the Obama administration by announcing its interest in amending the policies associated with the U.S. military presence in Japan. The prime minister's suggestion to move a Marine airfield off Okinawa sparked deep misgivings in Washington. But Defense Secretary Robert Gates' blunt tone in a Tokyo news conference last month, when he called moving the air station off the island "politically untenable and operationally unworkable," shocked many Japanese.

The president has an opportunity to change how Tokyo and Washington work together. First, while both Obama and Hatoyama have noted the value of the diplomatic partnership, they must acknowledge that the U.S.-Japan relationship is no longer based on Cold War understandings but, rather, on its ability to deliver solutions to contemporary problems. The relationship cannot remain static or isolated from the tremendous global and regional changes afoot. They should not attempt to build the alliance's agenda in one visit but over the coming year. Obama will return to Japan in November 2010, when Japan hosts the next Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting. Allowing for real discourse on how to transform our alliance would relieve the pressure on this visit to mark the resolution to all bilateral problems and relieve pressure on a fledgling government trying to accomplish too much. The two leaders should raise their sights considerably; this is simply not the time for messy politics or policy tantrums.

The president and the prime minister must demonstrate the power of the partnership between the world's two largest national economies and most technologically advanced societies. Their talks should focus on generating economic growth and stabilizing global financial markets; invigorating the global climate-change effort and capitalizing on new technologies to reduce carbon levels; and discussing how their nations can motivate the global nonproliferation and disarmament effort while providing for Japan's strategic needs in a nuclear world.

Transition jitters and the legacies of predecessors must be set aside. This visit is the moment for two heads of state to make good on their claims that this relationship is a priority. They should get to work designing an effective and forward-looking partnership.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Saving democracy from its worst enemy

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

One would think that, with the time-consuming and energy-expending campaign in the recent election, Tina Sablan would take a well-deserved rest of at least a couple of days to catch up on her beauty sleep before emerging back into the democratic hassle.

Like the *Marianas Variety,* my first reading of the election results, at least for the OGA initiative, was that it passed and thus came a feeling of elation. "At least, we won one," I quietly consoled myself. But I caught myself before publicly displaying my elation. Instead, upon being confronted by a technicality that rendered the votes cast-and-counted short, I resigned to the power of the impersonal "rule" and was to say no more until the next round of reckoning.

Tiny Tina would not be muzzled so quickly. We are elated at such a display of relentless and determined leadership with or without the public's sanction of an official role. Our shriveled heart began to bellow again; our cowardice was transformed, resurrected, invigorated to engage without ceasing in the ongoing pursuit of broad participation and transparency in democratic governance.

Reflecting on the conduct of the last election, those of us who fancy ourselves as participant observers in the democratic process ask the inevitable question: Have we furthered the democratic cause? What historical lessons do we need to learn to make sure that past mistakes are not repeated?

And what signs of hope have emerged, if any? Senate President Pete Reyes' recent announcement of the informal agreement among the senators regarding the upper chamber's leadership role to rotate among the three district's representative is a systemic solution to the requirement of democratic leadership role. It avoids the dynastic understanding of leadership as vested by divine right, or, empowered by hereditary prerogative, or, enabled by force of personality—the power over the mob and the rabble.

It is on the last one that Michael Signer addresses his book, *Demagogue: The Fight to Save Democracy from its Worst Enemies.* Signer claims that the inherent weakness of democracy is its tendency to breed demagogues who turn tyrants, who seeds the field of their own self-destruction and violence, giving birth to the disciplined practices of fascism, the charitable but benign goodwill of oligarchy, or the various dictatorship undertaken in the name of the masses.

The title demagogue (from the Greek, *demos,* the people, and *agogos,* leader, teacher, etc.) itself has mixed pedigree, with the following as exemplars in recent memory: the Austrian corporal Adolf Hitler, the labor leader Huey Long, the charismatic Sen. Joe McCarthy, the populist George Wallace of Alabama, and the imperial Gen. Douglas MacArthur of the Pacific.

A demagogue is a charismatic leader of people, usually by strong display of controlled but compelling emotions and moving oratory, who garners personal power ceded by the insecure who symbiotically draws synergy from the charisma and derive meaning for their own lives. The demagogue is often a gap-filler, a loud echo in the vacuum left by the indifferent and indecisive muddled middle.

Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines was a fine legislator and populist politician until he got his ego and personality ahead of his leadership role and function in history, and that's before taking account of the incalculable influence of his wife who allegedly took kleptocracy to new heights, and co-created the celebrated but unequaled form of conjugal dictatorship practiced in their time. Diminutive President GMA, ala Napoleon Bonaparte, took her dynastic prerogative seriously, and now, come Kris and Noynoy Aquino to claim the charisma of their parents and weave the *cadena de honor* to Malacañang Palace.

The challenge in our time is how to create facilitative leaders rather than demagogues, who do not require of their followers blind obedience and unquestioning loyalty. The messianic image of benign and/or benevolent dictators, whether they be a Peron or a Pinochet, a Chavez or a Castro, a Ghadafi or an Nkrumah, a Mao or a Chiang, are too familiar in recent history that we should be able to avoid their example. The slippery slide into the domineering domain of demagoguery is a leader's constant temptation, not an infrequent trap for mass movement leaders. It is much easier to coerce than it is to convince.

The practice of facilitative leadership is to sharpen life questions for all, not give easy answers or offer relationships of dependencies, but show options and choices for all to make responsible decisions. Leaders do that not by convincing us of the virtues of their advice and admonitions, nor the efficiency of their plans, but by the efficacy of their example, and allowing us not just to follow their steps, but to "do likewise" with the power of our own steps.

For this to happen, the democratic learning style has to begin at the lowest grade level of education. The tendency of students to see the teacher as an authority figure is effectively avoided when the teacher knows when and how to step aside while the student is in the process of learning. But as long as the teacher is perceived as the answer giver, or the Mosaic lawgiver whose dictum is inviolate, then the students' learning capacity is forever at the mercy of the teachers' dictates.

We need to build structures that systematize functions, not enshrine roles. I was in Brazil in the early '80s when some paperwork needed to go through a government bureaucracy. We engaged a professional facilitator whose function was to see us through the regulatory process, make us understand how it works, and worked herself out of a job so that the next time we required the service, we could do it on our own engine. Corporations include this expenditure in their budgets in the same way as legal fees are set aside as a line item.

Anyone doing business in Asia includes contingency costs. Mrs. Suharto in Indonesia was called Mrs. Ten Percent for alleged collection of fees in approving regulatory requirements. Justice Demapan's last State of the Judiciary address candidly acknowledged the depth and breath of the corruption that now characterizes the performance of public functions.

That's why Tina's particular leadership style comes as a breath of fresh air. She did not lose an election; she gained our respect. And we got a facilitating leader.

Can the US teach Karzai how to be a wartime president?

By MAX BOOT
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Boot is a contributing editor to the Los Angeles Times' *opinion section and a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. His most recent book is* War Made New: Technology, Warfare, and the Course of History, 1500 to Today. *He recently returned from a trip to Afghanistan.*

Hamid Karzai begins another term as Afghanistan's president with a long to-do list. The Obama administration has made clear to him that he must crack down on corruption, install a team of technocrats to run the country and weed out warlords and narco-traffickers. Those are all important priorities, but there is something else he should be doing as well: acting as a wartime leader.

So far, Karzai has been oddly disengaged from the war raging around him. Rarely if ever does he visit his own troops in the field, go to hospitals to comfort the wounded or honor the dead, as President Barack Obama did so stirringly with his recent middle-of-the-night visit to Dover Air Force Base. Karzai doesn't even give speeches to rally his people in the effort to defeat the Taliban. When he does speak out, it is usually to bemoan civilian casualties caused by the Western coalition, inadvertently helping to further a Taliban propaganda line. Most of the time, though, he prefers to shelter behind the high walls of his presidential compound in Kabul, where he can focus on backroom dealmaking.

That doesn't mean that Karzai is opposed to the war effort or soft on the Taliban. He must know that if the Taliban ever regains power, he would be one of the first victims dangling from a lamppost. But he has not embraced the war effort in the way that Franklin D. Roosevelt or Winston Churchill did—even though the war against the Taliban is every bit as important for the future of Afghanistan as the war against the Nazis and Japanese was for the future of Britain and America. He has not been, to put it mildly, a Ramon Magsaysay—the reformist Philippine defense minister and president in the 1950s who worked closely with his American adviser, Edward Lansdale, to defeat the communist Huk insurgents.

Karzai has not even been, to take a lesser and more recent example, a Nouri al-Maliki. The Iraqi prime minister was also oddly disengaged from the war tearing his country apart when he first took over in 2006. He came into office with no military experience and with deep-seated suspicions of an army that he associated with the Baathist regime. But as he grew more comfortable in his post, he became a formidable if sometimes impetuous frontline commander.

The highlight of his tenure came in 2008, when he personally directed Iraqi troops to clear the Sadrists out of Basra and Sadr City. Those operations were not well prepared, but they proved successful with U.S. help, and as a result, they gave a tremendous boost not only to Iraq's stability but to al-Maliki's own standing. Today, al-Maliki is the most popular politician in Iraq, and his critics are fretting not that he is too weak, as they were in 2006, but that he is too strong and could run roughshod over Iraq's nascent democracy.

One factor working in al-Maliki's favor was that President George W. Bush took a close personal interest in his success. In video teleconferences and personal meetings, he served as a mentor and supporter, giving al-Maliki the kind of lessons in leadership that only one embattled head of state can impart to another. Today, by contrast, Obama is holding Karzai at arm's length. His administration is offering ultimatums, not mentoring, to the Afghan president.

A more productive approach would be for Obama to embrace Karzai and give him some pointers while nudging him in a more reformist direction. One of the top tips he could impart would be how to act as a wartime commander in chief who rallies public opinion behind him. Problem is, Obama himself is struggling with that job—as have most of his predecessors, including Bill Clinton and Bush. That's no surprise, because there is little that can prepare anyone for that awesome responsibility. Thus Clinton stumbled over Somalia and gays in the military before finding his footing in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Bush stumbled far worse in Iraq. Early on, he was a hands-off leader, delegating the management of the war to military and civilian subordinates who failed him and the country. Bush finally matured as a leader and earned a shot at redemption in 2006, when he approved the "surge" despite Washington's conventional wisdom to the contrary. The kind of steeliness he showed in the face of adversity may even help to rescue his historical reputation from the damage done by Abu Ghraib and Hurricane Katrina.

Note that Bush is now unemployed except for the usual post-presidential activities of speech-giving and memoir-writing. Maybe it's time for Obama to summon his predecessor—as Bush himself summoned his own father and Clinton on several occasions—and ask him to undertake a special mission: Give Karzai some pointers on how to be a leader in wartime. The ultimate success or failure of our war effort could turn on whether Karzai can don that mantle as successfully as he does his trademark chapan cape and karakul hat.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you

Halloween was a busy night, with so many events and parties, but the HA-LAFF-WEEN event was still a success as all tickets were sold out last Saturday night. The divas and the dancers from Spartacus Bar would like to thank the public for their presence and big support for the flood victims in the Philippines and also to those that donated even if they were not able to make it that night. I'm sure that the Philippines would greatly appreciate the big help from the CNMI. This may not be the last event but were looking forward to helping out more. It was a fantastic performances that was put out by the divas and the dancers of Spartacus Bar. Everyone came with their amazing, fierce costumes. I would also like to thank the performers: Shawna, DoraMae, Prosty, Berhdi and Celine for helping out. Ladies, you guys were stunning! Everything turned out great as we expected. Keep it up.

Jaetany Camacho
Miss 2009 Diva Drag Queen

Correction

The date, given in my Nov. 13 letter to the editor, for the hearing on Judge Govendo's ethics violation was in error. The hearing is set for Dec. 17th, not Nov. 17th.

My apologies.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

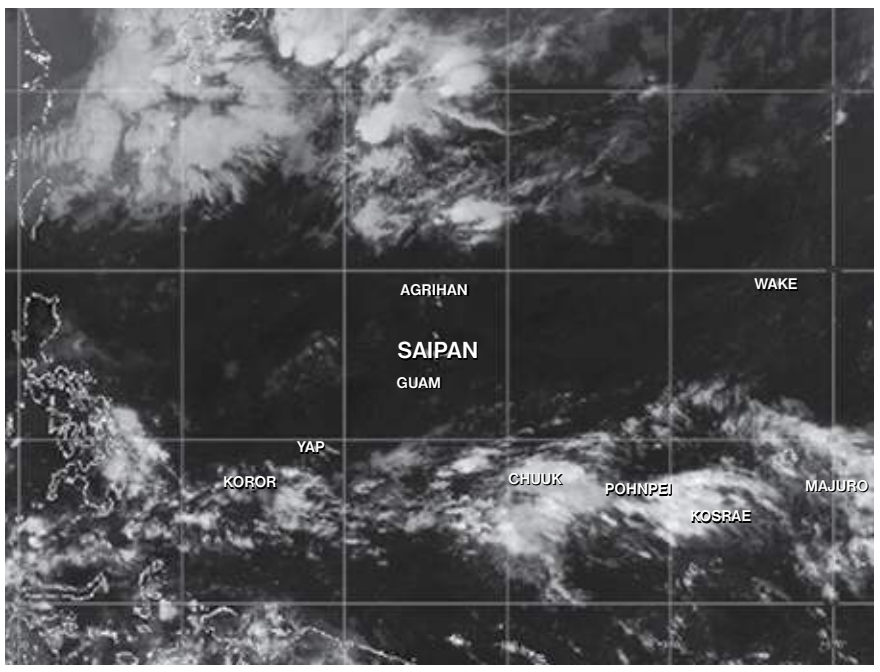
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲36	▼21
Hong Kong	Rain	▲66	▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼74
London	Rain	▲54	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲66	▼48
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲91	▼59
Miami	Sunny	▲80	▼66
New York	Rain	▲53	▼47
Osaka	Showers	▲65	▼46
Paris	Showers	▲55	▼47
Pusan	Sunny	▲59	▼35
Rome	Cloudy	▲64	▼52
Salem	Cloudy	▲41	▼29
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼44
Seoul	Cloudy	▲48	▼32
Tokyo	Rain	▲67	▼51
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼50

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak trough north of the Marianas runs from 22N143E to 25N144E. Scattered showers are found within 75 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is combining with divergent flow aloft to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over a large area across eastern Micronesia between 3N and 10N from 147E to 180. This area includes Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands. Less numerous scattered showers are found farther west, south of Guam and Yap but over Koror between 4N and 9N from 130E to 147e.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:04 AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:33 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
5:15 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:40 AM	3:37 PM
Sunday	4:35 AM	4:20 PM
Monday	5:31 AM	5:06 PM
Tuesday	6:27 AM	5:56 PM
Wednesday	7:23 AM	6:47 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 14, 2000

House bars cops from confiscating driver's license
Following scrutiny by lawmakers, the House of Representatives yesterday finally cleared legislation that will bar police officers from confiscating driver's license when issuing citation ticket for committing a traffic violation or infraction. The move came after the lower house reviewed existing laws that have given the Department of Public Safety the power to seize the license in order to compel violators to appear in court to pay fines. Critics have slammed the proposal under HB 12-270 as it could deprive authorities a strong means to force these violators to show up for their court summons and actually pay the fines.

Japanese arrivals fall 10% in October
The controversial travel advisory issued by the Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September has apparently taken its toll on the CNMI tourist industry, pulling down the number of visitors ferried by Japan Airlines by 10 percent in October. However, JAL officials emphasized that intensified promotion on domestic tourism in Japan and the lack of activities on the island were the major reasons behind the plunge in the overall number of Saipan-bound Japanese travelers last month. A report obtained from the airline company disclosed arrivals from Tokyo dropped seven percent in October 2000 to 9,904 from last year of the same month's 10,656 Saipan-bound travelers who were ferried by the Japanese flag carrier.

Nov. 14, 2001

DPH creates bioterror task force
Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez has formed the Department of Public Health Bioterrorism Task Force following the anthrax scare that gripped Saipan last week. The task force, chaired by the health secretary, is composed of representatives from the different divisions of the Department that include the Commonwealth Health Center administrator, the director of medical affairs, an epidemiologist, environmental health specialists, pharmacists, emergency room staff and three certified hazardous material personnel. "We're pooling together so that we have a quicker response time," Villagomez said.

Tinian murder case: AG seeks suppression of testimonies
The Attorney General's Office has filed a court motion, seeking to exclude two pieces of testimonial evidence in the forthcoming murder trial of Tinian resident Juanito M. Alcantara. The government through Chief Prosecutor Kevin A. Lynch moved to suppress testimonies relating to a hammer that was allegedly found inside the victim's bedroom. Moreover, the prosecution also asked the court to discount the victim's parents' theory about the case. Lynch, in the court documents submitted to the Superior Court, explained that the deceased died as a result of being struck numerous times on the head with an object.

Nov. 14, 2002

Babauta, NMI govt sued
The Civil Service Commission filed a lawsuit yesterday against Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the Commonwealth government, in an attempt to prevent the termination of several civil service employees who have been converted to exempted position. The commission, which is seeking to strip the Governor of control over the Office of Personnel Management, asserted that some statutory provisions giving Babauta powers over personnel matters, as well as an executive order creating excepted service positions, are unconstitutional; thus, they should have no force and effect. The commission also assailed the Governor's legal authority to appoint its executive director.

8K Chinese tourists since April '02
China Southern Air brought in close to 10,000 tourists to the Northern Marianas since the air carrier began direct charter flight to the Commonwealth in April 2002. The tourists-who arrived through the bi-weekly flights of the air carrier to Saipan-boosted the recovery efforts of the CNMI tourism industry, Tinian Dynasty Hotel Manager Tom Liu said. Since April 2001, over 8,000 tourists flocked to Saipan and Tinian using China Southern Air's Boeing 757, which utilized almost 50 percent of its 104-flight permit to the Commonwealth. Liu said China Southern Air would also be instrumental when the West Tinian International Airport opens for direct flight to Tinian in early 2003. The hotel manager, however, refused to disclose plans for additional flight permit for the air carrier when its license expires on April 2003.

Business

Biz leaders: Asia leading world out of downturn

SINGAPORE (AP)—China, India and other Asian countries are leading the world out of the global economic crisis, business leaders said Friday, as trade and finance ministers pledged to make Asia-Pacific a cheaper, faster and easier region to do business in by 2015.

The biggest economic crisis since the 1930s has been the focus of this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, an annual gathering of 21 member economies from Asia and the Pacific Rim.

As spending drops and savings increase among consumers in the United States, the world's biggest economy, "somebody else has to spend more somewhere else in the world. This has to be in Asia," Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said.

"The next few years' growth will be slow worldwide but in the long term, Asia will do well," Lee said in a keynote address to a conference of business leaders.

He said the demographics are favorable for growth in China and India, two rare bright spots in the world economy with growth rates of over 6 percent.

The International Monetary Fund said last month that Asia would grow 2.75 percent in 2009 and 5.75 percent in 2010, far outpacing the West.

Lee said the growing middle class in China and India will have greater spending power amid greater urbanization and demand for infrastructure.

Other business leaders at the meeting, held on the sidelines of the annual APEC forum, agreed.

"Historically, the developed economies led recoveries. This time, it's going to be the developing economies," said Dennis Nally, global chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers International.

Still, while the worst is over, sustaining the recovery—and ensuring that it is balanced—remains a key challenge, APEC and business leaders said.

The weeklong forum culminates in a weekend leaders' summit that will include President Barack Obama, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, as well as leaders from Southeast Asia and Latin America.

Finance, trade and foreign ministers debated ways out of the crisis and to ensure sustained growth in the post-crisis period.

APEC members set a specific target of making the region a better place to do business, pledging to improve regulatory conditions in five key areas—from starting a business to enforcing contracts—by 2015.

World Bank president: inflation a risk to recovery

SINGAPORE (AP)—Asian economies must handle their monetary and currency policies carefully to avoid unleashing a wave of potentially destabilizing inflation, World Bank President Robert Zoellick said Friday.

The U.S. and European economies, which are barely starting to recover from the global meltdown, are less at risk, but in Asia the massive liquidity flowing into regional markets could push asset prices up dangerously high, Zoellick told a business forum on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

"In this region some care must be taken because as we get recoveries ... we could see inflation or some flow into commodities markets or certain asset price markets," Zoellick said.

Stimulus spending and loosened credit and monetary policies have helped spur a recovery in the region, especially in India and in China, which clocked growth at 8.9 percent in the third quarter.

Zoellick noted that Asian central banks, which normally take their cues from the U.S. Federal Reserve, are doubly reluctant to raise interest rates to fight inflation because that will likely push the values of their currencies higher—weakening the potential for growth in their exports by making them less competitive.

Interest rate hikes in the U.S. are not expected in the immediate future out of fears they could threaten the incipient recovery at a time when jobless rates remain at their highest in more than 26 years.

"If the Federal Reserve keeps interest rates low and they keep interest rates low you're going to see this danger I think increase in potential," Zoellick said.

Such concerns have sharpened, especially in China, in recent months given the 74 percent rise in the Shanghai Composite Index share benchmark since the beginning of the year. Real estate prices and commodity prices have also rallied in recent months.

"We are at the stage of the recovery where confidence is important," Zoellick said. "If you have asset bubbles that are not properly dealt with, then that could in turn undermine confidence in 2010, which is the year I'm more concerned about," he said.

Currency issues remain another daunting problem for Asian economic planners, given the weakness of the U.S. dollar and controls on the Chinese yuan that keep its value linked to the American currency, Zoellick said.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Family: Mo. child sex abuse claims are 'repulsive'

LEXINGTON, Mo. (AP)—Family members of five men charged in a bizarre child sex abuse case reacted with disbelief and sadness Thursday to the "unspeakable" string of alleged atrocities spanning two decades. "It's unspeakable. I can't think of words that would put this in perspective. I find it repulsive if it's true," said Darrel Mohler, a brother of one of the five men charged. The men—a father and his four adult sons—were dressed in orange jumpsuits and shackled at their wrists, waists and ankles on Thursday when they made their first court appearance. Associate Circuit Judge John Frerking read the charges against them, including forcible sodomy, rape with a child younger than 12 and use of a child in a sexual performance.

Lawyers: Colo. balloon boy parents to plead guilty

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP)—The parents accused of pulling a spectacular hoax by reporting that their 6-year-old son had floated away aboard a helium balloon have agreed to plead guilty in a deal that could send them both to jail but protect the wife from deportation. Richard Heene will plead guilty Friday to attempting to influence a public servant, a felony, said his attorney, David Lane. Heene's wife, Mayumi, a Japanese citizen who could be deported if convicted of more serious charges, will plead guilty to a lesser charge of false reporting to authorities, a misdemeanor. Lane said the threat of deportation "fueled" negotiations with prosecutors. An attorney for Mayumi Heene said her immigration status was a factor in reaching the deal but would not comment further.

Jury chooses life sentence in TV anchor killing

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A jury sentenced a man to life in prison Thursday for the beating death of a popular Arkansas television personality, sparing him the death penalty after hearing testimony about his rocky upbringing by an abusive, drug-addicted mother. Jurors deliberated less than three hours before recommending that Curtis Lavelle Vance, 29, be sentenced to life in prison without parole for the death of Anne Pressly. They also handed down a life sentence for rape, 20 years for burglary and 10 years for theft. Pressly, 26, was an anchor on KATV's "Daybreak" program and had a bit part in the President George W. Bush biopic "W." She died Oct. 25, 2008, five days after a brutal assault that crushed her face and left her gasping for air.

Feds move to seize 4 mosques, tower linked to Iran

AP

An Imam, right, enters the Razi school Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009 in the Queens borough of New York. The school was among the assets seized by the federal government in a civil complaint in federal court seeking the forfeiture of more than $500 million in assets of the Alavi Foundation and an alleged front company.

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors took steps Thursday to seize four U.S. mosques and a Fifth Avenue skyscraper owned by a nonprofit Muslim organization long suspected of being secretly controlled by the Iranian government.

In what could prove to be one of the biggest counterterrorism seizures in U.S. history, prosecutors filed a civil complaint in federal court against the Alavi Foundation, seeking the forfeiture of more than $500 million in assets.

The assets include bank accounts; Islamic centers consisting of schools and mosques in New York City, Maryland, California and Houston; more than 100 acres in Virginia; and a 36-story glass office tower in New York.

Confiscating the properties would be a sharp blow against Iran, which has been accused by the U.S. government of bankrolling terrorism and trying to build a nuclear bomb.

A telephone call and e-mail to Iran's U.N. Mission seeking comment were not immediately answered.

John D. Winter, the Alavi Foundation's lawyer, said it intends to litigate the case and prevail. He said the foundation has been cooperating with the government's investigation for the better part of a year.

"Obviously the foundation is disappointed that the government has decided to bring this action," Winter told The Associated Press.

It is extremely rare for U.S. law enforcement authorities to seize a house of worship, a step fraught with questions about the First Amendment right to freedom of religion.

The action against the Shiite Muslim mosques is sure to inflame relations between the U.S. government and American Muslims, many of whom are fearful of a backlash after last week's Fort Hood shooting rampage, blamed on a Muslim American major.

"Whatever the details of the government's case against the owners of the mosques, as a civil rights organization we are concerned that the seizure of American houses of worship could have a chilling effect on the religious freedom of citizens of all faiths and may send a negative message to Muslims worldwide," said Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Fort Hood suspect charged with 13 counts of murder

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)—The Army psychiatrist in the Fort Hood massacre was charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder Thursday as he lay in a hospital bed and President Barack Obama ordered a review to determine if the government fumbled warning signs of the shooter's contacts with a radical Islamic cleric.

Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan could face the death penalty if convicted.

Army officials said they believe Hasan acted alone when he jumped on a table with two hand guns last week, shouted "Allahu akbar" and opened fire. The dead included at least three other mental health professionals; 29 were injured.

Additional charges were possible, said Chris Grey, spokesman for the Army Criminal Investigation Command. It had not been decided whether to charge Hasan with the death of the unborn child of a pregnant soldier who died, officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the case publicly.

Meanwhile, Obama ordered a review of all intelligence related to Hasan to determine whether it was properly shared and acted upon within the government. John Brennan, assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism, will oversee the review. The first results are due Nov. 30. Obama also ordered the preservation of the intelligence.

Members of Congress are pressing for a full investigation into why Hasan was not detected and stopped. A Senate hearing on Hasan is scheduled for next week.

Rep. Peter Hoekstra, the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, and others have called for a full examination of what agencies knew about Hasan's contacts with a radical imam and others of concern to the U.S., and what they did with the information. Hoekstra confirmed this week that the U.S. government knew of about 10 to 20 e-mails between Hasan and a radical imam, beginning in December 2008.

A joint terrorism task force overseen by the FBI learned late last year of Hasan's repeated contact with a radical Muslim cleric who encouraged Muslims to kill U.S. troops in Iraq. The FBI said the task force did not refer early information about Hasan to superiors because it concluded he wasn't linked to terrorism.

Hasan was charged in the hospital without his lawyers present, said John Galligan, his civilian attorney.

"What I find disturbing is that my client is in ICU, and he's 150 miles south of his defense counsel, and he's being served with the charges," he told The Associated Press.

Gates to lead 6-month push against roadside bombs

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday he will lead an intensive push for new ways to defuse the threat from homemade bombs, the crude ambush weapons that account for eight in 10 casualties in Afghanistan.

"The best solution isn't always the most elaborate," Gates told workers assembling rush orders of a new armored combat truck that, like many of the bombs themselves, is an improvisation.

With numerous offices and agencies working on ways to find and protect against booby-trap bombs, Gates said he wants a brainstorming review across the Defense Department that would last about six months. He will get a monthly report on the progress, Gates said.

The weapon of choice for insurgents in Iraq, improvised bombs once were unheard of in Afghanistan. Deaths among U.S. and NATO allies fighting in Afghanistan have risen sharply as insurgents there learned to adapt the bombs to Afghan terrain, and as the military's technology sometimes failed to keep up.

In September 2009, the Pentagon counted 106 effective attacks that killed 37 coalition service members and wounded 285 more. Two years earlier there were 19 successful attacks.

An entire Pentagon agency was created to combat improvised bombs during the Iraq war and found itself chasing a moving target. Each time the experts figured out ways to detect one kind of bomb, the insurgents seemed to find another way to manufacture, hide or detonate devices that are often little more than dynamite, wire and a cell phone.

In October, the Government Accountability Office said the office, formally known as the Joint IED Defeat Organization, is hampered by bureaucratic shortcomings that could lead to duplication of efforts or unneeded programs.

"The whole purpose of this, really, is to make sure we get the troops what they need to protect themselves, and also the tools to be more effective," in dismantling insurgent networks that plant bombs or detecting the bombs themselves, Gates told reporters traveling with him.

A holdover from the presidency of Republican George W. Bush, Gates saw the steady rise of deaths and injuries from roadside bombs in Iraq and found more money for a heavier patrol vehicle called the mine-resistant, ambush-protected armored truck, or MRAP.

The transport truck Gates saw in action Thursday is adapted from that heavier version. With far fewer roads and rougher terrain in Afghanistan, the bigger, heavier trucks offered protection at the cost of less mobility.

Obama's hesitancy on war buildup sends messages

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's drawn-out decision-making on Afghanistan is sending messages. To the Afghan government: Clean up your act. To the Pentagon: I'm no rubber stamp. To the American public: More troops can't be the sole answer.

Obama

Obama has been accused by some Republicans of "dithering" about whether to send more troops and deepen U.S. involvement in an increasingly unpopular war.

The slow process also has left him open to critics who recall his pronouncement in March, after developing what he called a "stronger, smarter and comprehensive" Afghan war strategy, that the situation there was "increasingly perilous." He ordered more troops to battle then, with little discernible result so far.

This time, he's making it clear he won't be rushed. Or pushed. And the way the messages he's sending play out could help determine whether the war effort is sustainable in the long run.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters Thursday that the president was nearing a final decision, and he referred to one of the central questions Obama and his advisers have wrestled with for weeks.

"How do we signal resolve and at the same time signal to the Afghans and the American people that this isn't an open-ended commitment?"

Asia

Obama visits Japan as he mulls Afghan war options

TOKYO (AP)—President Barack Obama aims Friday to shore up relations with a new Japanese government vowing to be more assertive with its U.S. ally, even as he grapples with sending more U.S. troops to Afghanistan.

While public remarks from Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama are expected to stress their countries' enduring alliance, Obama's visit comes at a time of uncertainty in relations. Hatoyama has promised to end Japan's Indian Ocean refueling mission that supports U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan and to review an agreement on relocating American troops in Japan that Washington thought was settled three years ago.

Obama arrived at Tokyo's Haneda Airport early Friday beginning a four-nation Asia trip, his first to the region as president.

Weighing on Obama is a pending decision on Afghan war strategy. Stopping off at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska on his way to Asia, Obama told a military audience he will only commit more forces to Afghanistan if it is vital to U.S. interests and receives public support.

AP

Japanese police officers stand guard in front of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo Friday, Nov. 13, 2009. U.S. President Barack Obama schedules to arrive later in the day for a two-day Tokyo visit before attending an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Singapore over the weekend.

"I will not risk your lives unless it is necessary to America's vital interests," Obama told the troops.

"And if it is necessary," Obama added, "the United States of America will have your back. We'll give you the strategy and the clear mission you deserve. We'll give you the equipment and support you need to get the job done. And that includes public support back home."

Afghanistan is a complicating factor in the trip to a rapidly changing Asia reordering itself around China's surging economic and diplomatic clout. Obama's chief goal, the White House has said, is to demonstrate U.S. commitment to the region.

Bomb hits Pakistan's spy agency in northwest

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide car bomb devastated Pakistan's main spy agency building in the northwest Friday, killing at least 7 people and striking at the heart of the institution overseeing much of the country's anti-terror campaign.

The blast in Peshawar was the latest in a string of bloody attacks on security forces, civilian and Western targets since the government launched an offensive in mid-October against militants in the border region of South Waziristan, where al-Qaida and Taliban leaders are believed to be hiding out.

Security forces guarding the Inter-Services Intelligence agency building opened fire on the attacking vehicle to stop it, but the bomber was able to detonate his explosives, said an intelligence official.

The early morning blast, heard across the city, destroyed much of the three-story structure and many cars on the street outside. Most of the dead were guards trying to protect the complex, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

An Associated Press reporter on the scene within minutes saw several dead or badly wounded bodies being taken away. Seven bodies and 35 wounded people were admitted to the nearby Lady Reading Hospital, police officer Ullah Khan said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bomber attacks military convoy near Kabul

KABUL (AP)—The Taliban claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing Friday that wounded at least six people near Camp Phoenix, a logistics support base for U.S. forces on the outskirts of Kabul. NATO said the suicide bombing occurred at 8 a.m. (0330 GMT) on the Jalalabad road, and reports indicated Afghan civilians, NATO service members and civilian contractors had been wounded. No NATO members were killed. Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid sent The Associated Press a message saying the attack was carried out by a Taliban suicide car bomber targeting an international military convoy.

Cambodia accuses Thai national of spying

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodia has detained a Thai man for allegedly spying on fugitive former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in the latest sign of worsening relations between the two neighbors. Thaksin, a fugitive from justice in Thailand, was named an adviser to Cambodia's government on economic affairs last week, angering the Thai government and prompting it to recall its ambassador, with Cambodia following suit. Thaksin then arrived this week for a visit to Cambodia, further straining ties. He was expected to depart late Friday. Siwarak Chothipong, a 31-year-old employee of the Cambodia Air Traffic Service, which manages flights in the country, was accused of stealing Thaksin's flight schedule and sending it diplomats at the Thai embassy in Phnom Penh, said National Police Deputy Chief Lt. Gen. Sok Phal.

Baby in China dies while doctor plays online game

BEIJING (AP)—A 5-month-old baby died in a hospital amid pleas for help from his parents while his doctor played video games online in eastern China, health authorities said Friday. An investigation showed Dr. Mao Xiaojun was playing an online version of "Go" on the night shift and did not take the parents' pleas for help seriously, the Jiangsu province health department said in a press release. "When efforts were being made to save the baby, the mother got on her knees in the doorway of the ear, nose and throat department and pleaded for help," the statement said.

World

Palestinian vote put off, Abbas remains in office

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who last week said he didn't want to run for re-election, may get to stay in office without a single ballot being cast.

Abbas

The Palestinian Election Commission ruled Thursday that January's scheduled vote should be put off because of opposition from the Islamic militant group Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip and is a rival of Abbas' Fatah faction.

Abbas raised international concern last week when he declined to run for another term, suggesting he was frustrated over a 10-month stalemate in Israel-Palestinian peacemaking. His departure would have thrown peace efforts into turmoil.

Now it appears Abbas may have been signaling his need for more backing from the U.S. against Israel since Hamas' rejection of a vote was likely.

The Palestinian Election Commission blamed Gaza's Hamas rulers for forcing the postponement.

Hamas overran Gaza in 2007, expelling Fatah forces loyal to Abbas. Hamas leaders oppose an election organized by Fatah, and without Gaza a complete election cannot be held.

Abbas has insisted that talks with Israel cannot resume until Israel halts all construction in its West Bank settlements. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose hardline Cabinet would not approve such a freeze, countered that the issue should be dealt with in the negotiations.

Ousted Honduran president: US weakened, yielded

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya accused the U.S. government Thursday of weakening and changing course in the conflict over the June 28 coup that saw soldiers hustle him out of the country.

Washington has said it supports Zelaya's reinstatement, but a U.S.-brokered pact signed by Zelaya and the government in place since the coup sets no deadline for his return to office and hopes of reinstating the deposed leader before Nov. 29 presidential elections appeared to be dimming.

U.S. officials "have suddenly declared they are going to wait for the elections because they changed their position midstream," Zelaya told Radio Globo. Zelaya has demanded he be reinstated before the vote.

"The United States weakened in the face of the dictator," Zelaya said, referring to interim President Roberto Micheletti. But Zelaya also said "the nations of the world, including the United States itself, what they really want is reinstatement and they have condemned the coup."

This week, the United States sent Craig Kelly, deputy assistant secretary of state for the Western Hemisphere, to Honduras to try to move along the U.S.-brokered pact, which calls for a unity government and for Congress to vote on whether to restore Zelaya.

Brazil: Deforestation sees biggest drop in 20 yrs

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon dropped nearly 46 percent from August 2008 to July 2009—the biggest annual decline in two decades, the government said Thursday.

Analysis of satellite imagery by the National Institute for Space Research shows an estimated 7,008 square kilometers (2,705 square miles) of forest were cleared during the 12-month period, the lowest rate since the government started monitoring deforestation in 1988.

"The new deforestation data represents an extraordinary and significant reduction for Brazil," President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said in a statement.

The numbers have been falling since 2004, when they reached a peak of 27,000 square kilometers (10,425 square miles) cleared in one year, according to the space research institute.

The government credited its aggressive monitoring and enforcement measures for the drop, as well as its promotion of sustainable activities in the Amazon region, an area in northern Brazil the size of the U.S. west of the Mississippi River.

WORLD BRIEFS

Castro as commentator on US politics

HAVANA (AP)—Think you're obsessed with President Barack Obama and the many challenges he faces at home and abroad? Well, you're not alone. Fidel Castro appears to have a fascination with the American leader that would make Obama Girl jealous, writing obsessively not only about his politics, but of his youth and vigor. And unlike with past American heads-of-state—he slammed President George W. Bush as a genocidal drunk—Castro seems to genuinely like the fresh face in Washington.

SAfrica business dispute sets off racism charges

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A struggle over how to manage South Africa's state-owned power company has opened debates on racism in the boardroom and political meddling in a country where politics and race remain a volatile mix. Chairman Bobby Godsell and CEO Jacob Maroga were brought in recently to turn around Eskom, a utility that has been troubled for years, but they could not agree on strategy. In a statement Thursday, Eskom's board said both men were out, and that an acting chairman was in sole charge until a new chair and CEO were named. Accusations are being made that Maroga was being pushed out because he is black. The youth wing of the ruling African National Congress party said: "The time of treating black people ... as subjects, who can be fired as and when the white master wishes is over."

UK man breaks record for pulling bus with hair

LONDON (AP)—A British man broke the world record for pulling a double-decker bus with his hair. Manjit Singh broke the Guinness World Record on Thursday by pulling the bus weighing 8.5 British tons for 21.2 meters (69.55 feet) across Battersea Park in London with ribbons attached to his hair. The 59-year-old Singh previously had failed to break the record to pull a double decker bus with his ears.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS
Saturday, November 14, 2009

In Pacquiao, a fighter like no other

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The best little fighter you will probably ever see had the seat of honor on the bus carrying him to his grand arrival at the MGM Grand casino. Manny Pacquiao had some more promoting to do, some more hands to shake, some more fans to meet.

This is boxing, and every sale counts. Pacquiao has been doing it long enough to understand that the more people who buy his pay-per-view fight with Miguel Cotto, the more his guaranteed $13 million purse goes up.

You get the feeling, though, that he might be doing it even if it didn't make him an extra dime.

"I'm enjoying it," Pacquiao said as the bus moves along the Las Vegas Strip. "I never thought I would be this popular in the United States."

Asked to explain his popularity, Pacquiao said, "I'm a very friendly person. I'm nice to everybody."

Perhaps too nice at times. At home in the Philippines, where he is revered for his success inside the ring and his generosity outside of it, Pacquiao gives away money and sends kids to school on scholarships. After a recent typhoon, he bought wood so coffins could be built.

"The Philippines has only one social welfare system, and it's Manny Pacquiao," promoter Bob Arum said.

The Philippines also has only one star. Pacquiao's face is everywhere, singing on TV with his band, promoting his action-figure movie that opens next month. He plans to run for Congress next year, and there's talk of him becoming president one day.

But right now he's preparing to uphold his status as the best pound-for-pound fighter in boxing.

He gave a beating to Oscar De La Hoya, made him quit on his stool. He followed that by barely breaking a sweat in flattening Ricky Hatton.

He's fought in six weight divisions and won six titles, and now he's winning over the hearts of the most hardened fight fans.

"For me, boxing is kind of entertainment," Pacquiao said. "You have to entertain people. You have to earn their respect."

Pacquiao plans to do just that on Saturday when he takes on the once-beaten Cotto, of Puerto Rico, in a 145-pound (66-kilogram) fight that could set up a megafight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. On paper it shapes up as perhaps his toughest fight yet, but fights are held on canvas, not paper.

Pacquiao has prepared well, sparring endless rounds until trainer Freddie Roach begs him to quit. Still, there is time to entertain actors in Roach's Hollywood gym, and time to croon along with the house band on late-night TV show "Jimmy Kimmel Live," something far more nerve-racking than getting hit in the face.

There also is time for the entourage, many of whom have been sleeping in hideaway beds in Pacquiao's 60th floor hotel suite at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino. House rules are spelled out in signs on the wall that impose a 9 p.m. curfew and prohibit ringing the bell on the champ's bedroom door. There are also visiting hours for friends, relatives and fans—8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., tickets required.

Roach remembers the day Pacquiao walked into his gym eight years ago looking for a new trainer.

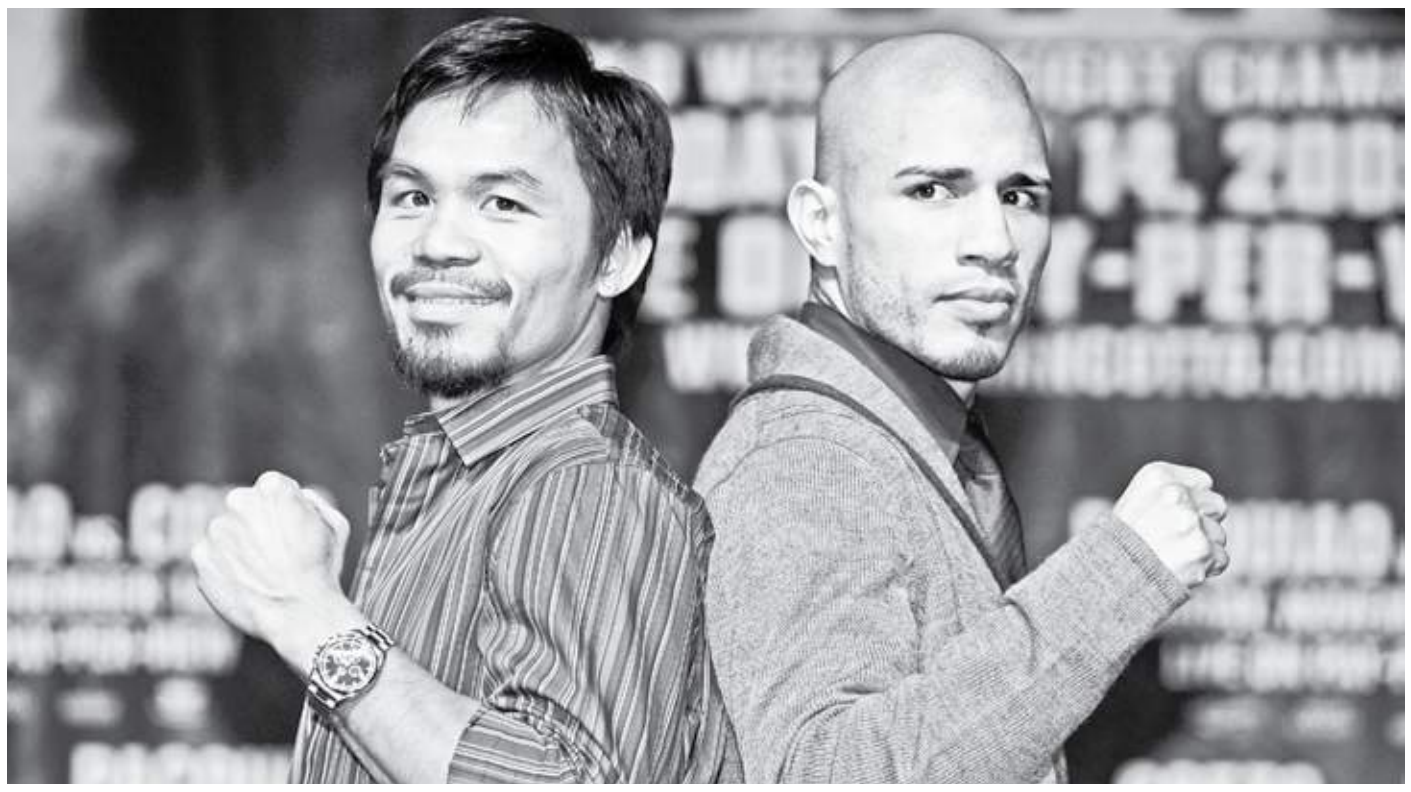
"We did a round with the mitts and he went back to his people to tell them he had found a trainer," Roach said. "I went back to my people and told them we had found a great fighter."

The partnership has blossomed beyond their wildest expectations. Pacquiao is fighting for millions of dollars every time he laces up the gloves, and Roach is becoming a different kind of star in Hollywood.

They are looking out the window as the bus pulls into the MGM, where a few thousand people are waiting to give Pacquiao a raucous welcome, along with a beaming Arum.

Pacquiao, wearing shades, follows a security team through the middle of it all, seemingly unfazed. He's smaller than most of the people around him, but he cuts a large figure.

"Forget about boxing for a moment," Roach said. "I've never seen anyone like him anywhere."



Miguel Cotto, of Puerto Rico, right, and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, pose for photos during a news conference at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009 in Las Vegas.

AP

Cotto knows he's not star of show

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Miguel Cotto didn't need to be reminded what his role is supposed to be against Manny Pacquiao.

Not after signing for half the money Pacquiao is getting paid. Not after having to agree to fight nearly a kilo (2 pounds) under his normal weight just to get the fight.

Not after spending months training for a fight a lot of people in boxing don't really believe he has much chance of winning.

Promoter Bob Arum took time at the final prefight press conference to remind him anyway.

"Psychologically he knows it and I know it," Arum said. "In this fight he is not the star of the show."

No, the star of the show is boxing's latest sensation, a mild mannered Filipino who gave Oscar De La Hoya such a beating he quit on the stool and destroyed Ricky Hatton with a single punch. Pacquiao is the face of this event, the boxer who brings the Philippines to a virtual standstill every time he steps into the ring.

But Cotto has a country behind him, too. Puerto Rico has long been a breeding ground of top fighters, and this fight is probably the most anticipated in his country since Felix Trinidad won a disputed decision over De La Hoya a decade ago.

Almost lost in the Manny mania that has made this perhaps the most anticipated fight of the year is that Cotto has some serious credentials of his own.

"I don't want to be Manny Pacquiao," Cotto said. "I just want to be Miguel Cotto."

For a long time that was good enough. Cotto was a rising star himself, a relentless puncher who won two titles, knocked almost everyone in front of him out, and had no trouble selling out Madison Square Garden.

But along came Antonio Margarito and Cotto found himself on the receiving end of the kind of beating he usually handed out. He fought valiantly before finally being stopped in the 11th round of a brutal slugfest, a devastating loss tempered later only by the suspicion that Margarito had plaster inside his gloves like he did in his next fight against Shane Mosley.

"When things about Margarito came out after the fight it made me feel better about the situation," Cotto said.

He came back to win a tuneup fight, then had to rally to beat Joshua Clottey by split decision in the Garden in June. Pacquiao was there at ringside to watch a bloodied Cotto barely pull off a win to retain his piece of the welterweight title, and it wasn't long before negotiations for their fight began.

Though Pacquiao is careful not to say so, his trainer, Freddie Roach, believes Cotto is not the fighter he once was.

"I've studied the tapes of Cotto before and after the Margarito fight and he's not the same person," Roach said. "It's a good time to fight Miguel Cotto."

Oddsmakers think so, too, making Pacquiao a 2½-1 favorite in a fight that will be held at a catch weight of 66 kilograms (145 pounds), something Cotto had to agree to if he was going to get the fight. Pacquiao wanted the weight concession because he is the smaller fighter, having made his way up from 48 kilos (105 pounds), and fought Hatton at 63½ kilos (140 pounds).

Cotto insists he has put the Margarito fight behind him and is even better than he was before, but there are not only questions about his confidence, but his conditioning. He parted ways with his longtime trainer this year and has been using 32-year-old Joe Santiago, who has no experience in big fights, for the biggest fight of his career.

Pacquiao, whose marathon sparring sessions are legendary, believes that his preparation and his corner will both be factors.

"It's a big help to have a great trainer in your corner," he said.

There aren't as many questions about Pacquiao on the eve of the fight, though there are those in boxing who say he may be getting too much credit for his last two fights because De La Hoya was clearly past his prime and Hatton may have never been ready for prime time.

But the body of his work—six titles in six weight classes over the years—and the fact that Roach has managed to turn his right hand into as big a factor as his left hook make Pacquiao dangerous to anyone in front of him. He not only seems to have carried his speed with him as he moved up in weight, but the punch is there too, as evidenced by the tremendous left hook that floored Hatton in the second round of his last fight.

"We believe we have the advantage in both speed and power," Pacquiao said. "My speed is still there and if you have speed you can create power."

Cotto has power of his own—27 knockouts in 36 fights attests to that—and neither fighter thinks much about defense. The promise of a lot of action led to a quick sellout in the arena and promoters believe they will do strong business on pay-per-view.

The promise of at least $6.5 million helped sell Cotto on the fight. But the promise of greatness should he win means even more.

Because he knows that a win against Pacquiao might just make him boxing's next big star.

AP

Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, right, holds a citation with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton as she confers her with the Sikatuna award with the rank of Datu, a title bestowed on tribal chiefs and monarchs in the Philippines, at the Bahay Pangarap, Malacanang park, in Manila, Philippines, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009. The award is conferred by the Philippine government upon diplomats, officials and nationals of foreign states who have rendered services in fostering, developing and strengthening relations between their country and the Philippines.

Edu Manzano is Lakas bet for vice president

By JOCELYN UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Actor Edu Manzano will be the runningmate of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro in the 2010 elections, an official announced Friday.

"I would like to announce that Secretary Teodoro has accepted former OMB chairman Edu Manzano to be his running mate," said Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno at a press conference in Makati Friday.

Puno said he engaged talks with Manzano with the approval of Teodoro.

"I felt I have the obligation, after helping initiate his candidacy, to assure him with a partner that can live up to his expectations," said Puno who was also considered a candidate for vice president by the Lakas-Kampi-CMD (Lakas-Kilusan ng Malayang Pilipino-Christian Muslim Democrats) but backed out, saying he wanted to focus on his work as DILG chief.

Aside from the OMB, which campaigned against piracy, Manzano was also former vice mayor of Makati City.

Teodoro said he was happy that Manzano has accepted his invitation through Puno to be "the next vice president of the Philippines."

Actor Edu Manzano will reportedly be the running mate of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro in the 2010 elections.

Clinton applauded after predicting Pacquiao win

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton drew loud applause at a town hall meeting with students Friday in the Philippines by giving the right answer to the most pressing question: Is Manny Pacquiao going to win this weekend?

The most popular Filipino will be back in the boxing ring in Las Vegas on Saturday to take on Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico in a 145-pound (66-kilogram) fight that will be closely watched back home.

"Of course the Pacman's going to win. I mean, is there any doubt?" Clinton said at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, where she entertained questions during the nationally televised forum with hundreds of students.

"Pacman" is Pacquiao's nickname.

Clinton said she's aware that boxing and basketball are "pretty big" in the Philippines. Every time Pacquiao steps into the ring, he brings his native Philippines to a virtual standstill.

A Chicago native, Clinton also confessed that the Chicago Bulls were her favorites—until she moved to New York and started backing the Knicks, something she said was "kind of discouraging."

"Now the Knicks are trying maybe to get LeBron James, now that would make it very exciting in New York. So I will watch that. I am not sure exactly what will happen," Clinton said.

Clinton had a forum with students at the University of Santo Tomas, the Philippines's oldest, in Manila, on Friday, Nov. 13, 2009. She is in the Philippines on a visit to show support for the country's fight against extremists and its efforts to rebuild after three major storms rocked the islands.

Freed priest says abductors wanted money

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A 79-year-old Irish priest said he hiked through jungles, survived raging seas and slept in a swamp under a tarpaulin before his captors released him Thursday after a month, apparently without getting the ransom they demanded.

The Rev. Michael Sinnott said he was never harmed but complained of uncertainty of being released amid arduous conditions and a monotonous diet of sandwiches and rice.

Irish leaders hailed his freedom as an answer to prayers of millions in both countries, while the leadership of a large Muslim rebel group took credit for persuading the kidnapers to free Sinnott.

"Because I am a bit old and I found hiking a bit difficult at times, I think that they'd be glad to kidnap a younger man next time," a smiling Sinnott told reporters after being greeted by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at a Manila airport.

Six gunmen abducted Sinnott, a longtime missionary in the southern Philippines, on Oct. 11 from his home in the Mindanao region, home to several armed groups fighting for Muslim self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The abductors took him by boat and then by foot across the jungle, each day promising to release him in exchange for money.

"For the first 10 days, we were in a swampy area. It was a small place. I could not walk around," Sinnott said. "I was just sleeping on the hammock or sitting, doing nothing else."

Later on in the jungle, a gunman cut a pathway about 10 yards (meters) wide "and I walked up and down there," he said. "They did their best to make things as easy as possible for me."

Sean McDonagh, a priest in Navan, northwest of Dublin, who has known Sinnott for 45 years, told RTE radio in Ireland it was "a minor miracle" that the missionary survived his ordeal after quadruple bypass heart surgery four years ago.

In a video released Oct. 31, Sinnott said the abductors were demanding $2 million for his freedom. He said Thursday that he was not sure that any money changed hands, and the Irish and Philippine governments said no ransom was paid.

Officials had feared Sinnott could suffer a fatal heart attack because he was still recovering from his surgery. Rumors persisted he had died in captivity.

Philippine security officials blamed Sinnott's kidnapping on members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a separatist group that has entered into peace talks with the government.

The rebels denied involvement. Their leader, Mohagher Iqbal, said his group applied "pressure and our moral authority" on the kidnappers to release Sinnott.

"We did our part. It's a goodwill and humanitarian gesture, without any other consideration," Iqbal said.

Sinnott told reporters in Manila his abductors belonged to a "lost command," a term referring to former rebels who have turned to banditry.

However, Ireland Foreign Minister Micheal Martin said the Irish government talked directly with Moro rebel leaders and were left in no doubt that Sinnott was held by a rebel faction.

Sinnott said he was held by two groups of kidnappers and they told him they had no other means of getting arms and bullets except by money from ransom. They told him they were fighting for an independent Islamic state, he said.

Martin said paying a ransom "would only have jeopardized the vital work of aid workers and missionaries around the world. It would also place other Irish citizens in danger."

A Philippine government adviser, Jesus Dureza, denied speculation that Sinnott was released in time for a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to Manila on Thursday.

The Philippines has grappled with a spate of kidnappings this year, most of them blamed on al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants.

? LABOR FRONT

The Transitional Worker Classification

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: What is the purpose of the transitional worker program?

A: According to the Department of Homeland Security's interim rule, the transitional worker program is intended for an orderly transition from the CNMI permit system to the U.S. federal immigration system under the Immigration and Nationality Act. DHS is creating a new, temporary CNMI-only transitional worker classification or the CW classification. The creation of CW classification is in accordance with the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (federalization law).

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Who are considered CW transitional workers?

A: DHS says CW transitional workers are those alien workers who are ineligible for another classification under the Immigration and Nationality Act. These are nonresidents who perform services or labor for employers in the Commonwealth. The federalization law imposes a five-year transition period before the INA requirements become fully applicable in the CNMI. Therefore, the CW classification will be in effect for the duration of that transition period, unless extended by the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What will happen to the alien workers when the transition period ends?

A: According to DHS, following the end of the transition period, the transitional worker program will cease to exist. Transitional workers must then adjust or change status to an immigrant or another nonimmigrant status under the INA if they want to legally remain in the CNMI. Otherwise, such CW workers must depart the CNMI or they will become subject to deportation.

A provision of the CNRA (federalization law) states that CW workers may apply with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services during the transition period for a change of status to another nonimmigrant classification or to adjust status to an immigrant classification in accordance with the INA.

Disclaimer: *Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice.* Saipan Tribune *will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to* Saipan Tribune *via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the* Saipan Tribune*'s office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.*

U.S. & CNMI IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman & Maya B. Kara

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

Call for Appointment

(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack Rd.,
Garapan, Saipan

***BRUCE L. MAILMAN** is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989*

***MAYA B. KARA** is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer*

RP among Nat'l Geographic's 25 best new travel destinations

The Ifugao hilltribe people, steeped in ancient tradition, have transformed the precipitous mountainsides of their homeland into steeply-contoured rice terraces, complete with ingenious irrigation systems dating back 2,000 years.

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippine—The Philippines has been named by National Geographic as one of the "25 best new travel destinations in the world for 2010," according to the Philippine embassy in Washington.

In its November Adventure issue, the US publication cited the country's "ancient cultures, structures and biodiversity" as key reasons to visit the country.

The Washington, DC-based magazine described the Philippines as "harboring as many islands as the Caribbean and some of the most spectacular reefs on the planet."

It described the Philippines and the 24 other destinations as "just right for right now" for "travelers who want their dollars to do more—for others, for the planet and for themselves."

Among the magazine's other must-see places were Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Costa Rica, Iceland, Ireland, Kenya, Laos, Nepal, Peru, Slovakia, and Sri Lanka.

Willy Gaa, Philippine ambassador to the US, said the inclusion of the country on the list "shows the global community is taking note of the natural and cultural wonders in the Philippines, as well as efforts to protect and preserve them."

Last month, National Geographic-Traveler magazine named the Ifugao Rice Terraces as one of the "50 Places of a Lifetime: Greatest Destinations in the World."

It described the rice terraces in the Cordillera Administrative Region, declared by Unesco as a World Heritage Site, as "masterpieces of agrarian art" and "natural poetry."

Other "destinations of distinction and character" on the list are the South Pacific island of Aitutaki, Switzerland's Mt. Rigi, the Yap outer islands in Micronesia, the Balkan country of Montenegro, the Gobi desert in Mongolia, Bwindi forest in Uganda, and the little-known islands of Lord Howe in Australia and Fernando de Noronha in Brazil, among others.

According to Gaa, the American tourist firm Wilderness Travel is organizing a trip to the Philippines next May which will "lead clients high into the 4,000-foot Cordillera... then deep into the world's most diverse marine environment."

The travel group is a "company of and for travelers whose members are mostly repeat travelers or referrals from past members. Its members include naturalists, ecologists, archaeologists, writers, art teachers, historians, and mountaineers.

Wilderness Travel's 12-day trip to the Philippines costs $3,300 (about P153,800).

On its website—www.wildernesstravel.com—the Philippines is described as a country that boasts "breathtaking hikes, ancient rice terraces and other scenic mountain landscapes, cultural encounters with Ifugao people and world-class snorkeling in the country's coral triangle."

The Philippine journey "explores the emerald world of the Ifugao hilltribe people, steeped in ancient tradition and who have transformed the precipitous mountainsides of their homeland into steeply-contoured rice terraces, complete with ingenious irrigation systems dating back 2,000 years."

"The trip then takes travelers to Cabilao island in the Visayas to view stunning reefs that are part of the famed Coral Triangle, the world's greatest concentration of marine dioversity," said Wilderness Travel.

The Philippine embassy has been working with National Geographic in "raising awareness on the importance of sustainable development and ecological protection," according to the diplomatic mission's website.

RP-MILF peace talks 'imminent'—DFA tells Clinton

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The formal resumption of the suspended peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is "imminent," Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Special Concerns Rafael Seguis said Thursday.

Seguis, who also heads the Philippine peace panel negotiating with the MILF, made this statement after the press briefing with United States State Secretary Hillary Clinton.

He said a final peace agreement is expected before President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo steps down.

Clinton, during the briefing, said she is "encouraged by the ceasefire and the report I received today about the negotiating efforts is very promising."

"So we will wish the very best to those who are attempting to bring an end to the conflict and to support you in any way that is appropriate," she said.

The peace negotiations between the two parties abruptly stopped August last year after the Supreme Court stopped the signing of the a memorandum of agreement recognizing the Moros' right to ancestral domain over some parts of Central Mindanao.

Fire-fighting between the Philippine military and the MILF rebels erupted anew, displacing more than half a million people, a situation that prompted the United Nations, particularly its World Food Programme, the European Union, the Japanese government, and the rest of the international community to ration rice and other food stuff among the affected.

TAKE CHARGE

How well do you know yourself as an investor?

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I have been reading this section for quite some time now and you always recommend investing one's savings. I tried investing in the stock market, just a little bit, but the global financial crisis came, driving down the value of my stock investment below purchase price. I have been wary since then. However, they say things are getting rosier and I'm thinking of getting back to the investing game. I am not just sure if I can face another loss in the future. What do you think?—Paul

Answer: To grow your money, it is not enough to just save and save. It matters a lot where you put your savings. Money placed in one form of investment may not earn as much as it would in another form of investment.

Take savings accounts, for instance. If you put your money there, it may earn about 0.75 percent interest per annum these days. Put the same amount in a time deposit, and you may earn a bit better, maybe more than 2 percent per annum in 30 days. Exploring other forms of investment such as bond funds or equity (stock funds) may possibly give even higher returns if the market is up.

Your experience with the stock market shows what may happen to one's investment when the stock market is down. The value may become lower than at the price you paid for it when you bought the stocks. Sometimes, you may even lose everything you invested.

The bond market is not as volatile as the stock market, although bonds also come with some form of risk as when the bond issuer defaults. With bonds, you may get a higher rate of return for your investment than that offered by savings and time deposits, although note that bonds do not enjoy PDIC insurance.

You mentioned that you would like to invest again but are not sure you can face another loss. It would help if you analyze yourself and ask what kind of investor you are. Knowing your profile as an investor will guide you into determining the best investment that will suit you and your goals.

Know yourself

Answer these two questions to find out your investment personality:

1. Do you like taking risks or do you prefer taking things slowly but surely?

Persons who like taking risks enjoy riding roller coasters that turn 360 degrees around. In investing, they want things fast and want to earn higher returns fast even when it entails assuming some form of risk. Their risk for tolerance is thus high. People with this type of personality are aggressive.

On the other hand, those who like taking things slowly but surely are conservative. They don't like risks. In investing, it is important for them to preserve their capital.

2. Which is more important for you—having the possibility of earning a higher income even if this is not guaranteed, or the assurance of earning income that is guaranteed even if this is small?

Think about it: sure income that's little or higher income that is not sure? For some people, they don't want to risk losing their sure income even if it means foregoing the possibility of earning a higher income. Their approach to money is conservative.

Those who don't mind going out on a limb in order to possibly gain more believe in the no-pain-no-gain approach. They are more aggressive and won't mind risking everything.

Conservative vs. aggressive

You would now have an idea if you lean more on the conservative or aggressive side. If you are conservative, investing heavily in high risk investments such as stocks may be too much for you. The recent financial crisis which gripped the world would have been a real blow to you and if it happens again, this may even affect your health. Conservative investors would do well to invest the bulk of their money in bank deposits or medium and low risk investments such as bond funds, government securities.

If you are aggressive, then you would not mind the ups and downs of the investment market, in particular, the stock market. You know that although the stock price may be down today, it could also appreciate in value and rally up later on. Aggressive investors who are young may invest heavily in investments with the potential to give higher income, such as stock funds. Being young, these investors would also have the time to ride out market fluctuations and stay in the market a long time to see their investment portfolio eventually increase in value.

Is it time then now for you to go back into the stock market? If you are an aggressive investor, experts say this may be a good time to get back in the market as it appears that the global economy is improving. However, if you are conservative, you may still consider going into the stock market to spread out and diversify your portfolio. However, invest only a small part of your portfolio in this investment.

No matter what type of investor you are, always remember that it pays to diversify. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Spread out your investment pot, but put the bulk of it in the investment that suits your personality.

This article is meant to serve as a guide only. For further assistance, do not hesitate to talk to a financial planner who will be more than ready to help you out and answer all your questions. We wish you the best.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net or comment through our personal finance blog called MoneySmarts.Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Rhian admits she dreams of Dingdong

Rhian Ramos

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

It was such a delight to interview Rhian Ramos on "My Foursome," my online show with three other journalists. She shrugs off rumors linking her to Dingdong Dantes.

"I'll never want anyone who belongs to someone else," she said. "Even if Marian and Dong have not admitted anything, it's obvious that they have a deep connection."

Is she chummy with Marian? "We make beso naman," Rhian quipped. "I'm usually the first one to approach her when we see each other."

Does Dong seek love advice from her? "We try to keep things at a professional level. Though it's hard not to get carried away during our romantic scenes. You really have to feel it, to make the scene realistic. Even after taping, I still feel giddy sa sobrang pagka-internalize ko ng role ko in 'Stairway to Heaven.' I even dream of Dong sometimes. Nothing romantic—once I dreamt we were riding bump cars."

Robin's love letter

Robin Padilla's claim to fame may be the tough guy characters that he plays on screen, but he has proven to be a gentle soul whose natural charisma has won the hearts of his legion of fans.

Many heartaches ago, Binoe's charms also got to me. A four-page hand-written love letter from him is one of my priceless possessions. Binoe wrote to thank me for being there for him when he was down and out. Now that he's back on top again, I can't help but smile and be happy for him. I went through the fire with Binoe, so through the years he remains dear to me.

Tears for two

Speaking of Binoe, could it be true that his wife Liezl Sicangco has married someone else in Australia, where she's based? To quote a part of Binoe's letter to me: "Before, I only loved Liezl because she loved me when I was nothing. But now I love the two of you because you also loved me when I was an asshole."

For sure, Binoe is hurting, but he just won't show it. Will he take comfort in the thought that as a Muslim he can have many more wives?

Happy birthday!

Gabby Concepcion turned another year cuter last Nov. 5. What are his immediate plans for this new year in his colorful life? "I'll make time to see old friends and relatives," he told us. "Even though I have many new friends, iba siyempre 'yung friends from way back. They know me too well, so they'll make dangerous enemies," he laughed.

Caught kissing

A studio insider let me in on this juicy info: Carla Abellana placed a sign on the door of her dressing room which says, "Kung tatambay lang kayo dito, 'wag na lang." A costar who didn't see the sign barged in. She was shocked to see Geoff Eigenmann and Carla kissing. She muttered, "Bawal tumambay pero magtukaan pwede?"

Were they just practicing for a romantic scene in GMA 7's "SRO Cinemaserye presents Carinderia Queen" (Thursdays, from Nov. 12)? You must remember this: A kiss is still a kiss; a sign is just a sign!

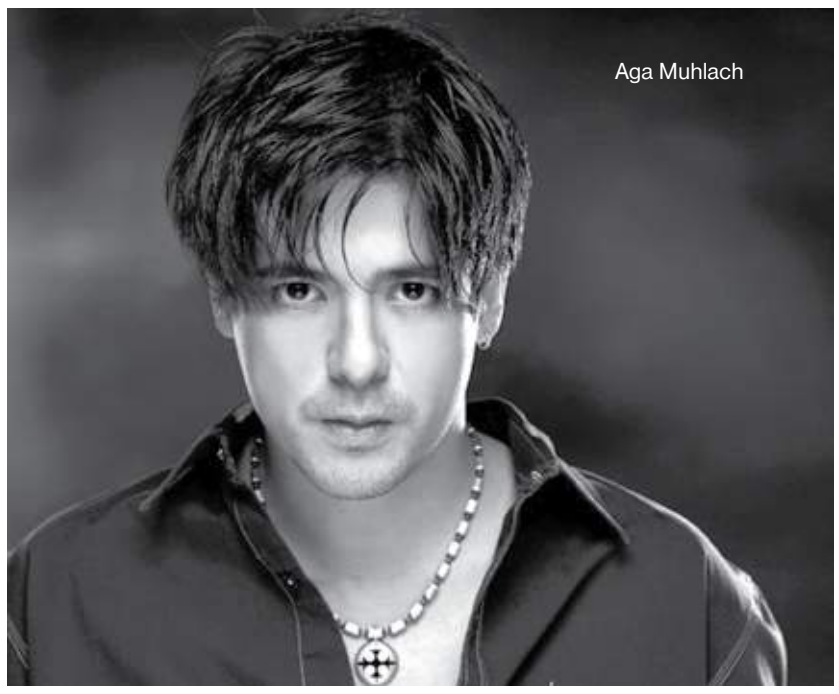
Carla Abellana and Geoff Eigenmann

Laugh trip

Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera had a blast in Malaysia and Singapore, where they promoted "Dyesebel" and "Marimar," which will be shown in both countries.

What was their most memorable moment during the trip? "Riding the roller coaster in Kuala Lumpur, in heavy fog" Dong said. "In Singapore last Halloween, we went out to look for a bar that wasn't too crowded. We found a hole in the wall, where we thought we could have a few drinks and talk. It was, indeed, cozy. Little did we know what was about to happen onstage: Stand-up comedy! We found ourselves laughing so hard, even if we had no idea what they were saying because it was in the dialect. We couldn't stop laughing even after we left."

Ninoy role 'flatters' Aga



Aga Muhlach

By Marinel Cruz
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"I felt embarrassed the first time I heard. The idea of me portraying Ninoy in a movie is overwhelming," said award-winning actor Aga Muhlach.

Philippine Daily Inquirer sought Aga's reaction to the news that TV host Kris Aquino thinks he's perfect for the role of her dad, opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, in the biopic to be produced by ABS-CBN.

"I feel flattered that the Aquinos are even considering me. Should [the network] bosses decide to give me the role, I will work very hard for it," Aga said last week at the launch of Jollibee's MaAga ang Pasko Jolly Toy Scout Training Camp at the SMX in Pasay City.

Star Cinema, the Kapamilya network's movie-production arm, earlier announced that it is eyeing Batangas Governor Vilma Santos to portray former President Corazon Aquino, with Piolo Pascual as the young Ninoy.

Aga is currently working on the romantic feature, "Of All the Things," with Regine Velasquez. The movie directed by Joyce Bernal is Viva Films' first offering for 2010. "We're halfway done. I hope we can open on Valentine's Day," the actor said.

Aga said he was scheduled to make another Star Cinema feature, with Angel Locsin, to be directed by Olivia Lamasan.

He said he wished to share his blessings in the past year, as usual, with under-privileged children. Aga announced that he would take part in Jollibee Foundation's construction and renovation of classrooms in select Metro Manila and Northern Luzon areas severely damaged by the recent typhoons.

"This has long been a dream project," he noted. "I'm happy that a lot of people have offered to help. The idea is, for every classroom I help build, tatapatan ng Jollibee ng isa [Jollibee will match it]. It's time we stopped blaming others for what this country lacks, and just do what we can to help."

On his own

Aga added: "I started my own gift-giving program 16 years ago, with just my driver. We went to an orphanage and handed out toys I had collected to about 40 kids. It has gotten so big since, that millions of children get toys and books at Christmas time."

He cited the fast-food chain for making this possible. Last year, he said, Jollibee, with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, collected over 187,000 donated toys and books within Metro Manila alone.

He added that more than 15,000 Toy Scouts have signed up and that, even adults are able to participate actively by giving, and gathering donations.

How to make 80 artists sing for free

MANILA, Philippines—The recording of the charity CD single "Kaya Natin Ito," written by Ogie Alcasid for the benefit of victims of the recent storms, is finished—with a music video ushering its release.

The song features more than 80 singers who gave their services for free. All sales proceeds will go to those affected by Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng."

According to Alcasid, the music video will premiere on Nov. 22 simultaneously on the TV programs "SOP" (GMA 7) and "ASAP" (ABS-CBN). The singer-songwriter spoke to the Inquirer on Saturday by phone from Tampa, Florida, where he was doing a show with Janno Gibbs.

"Kaya Natin Ito" is a milestone—practically the entire roster of singers in the local pop music industry, with a sprinkling of folk, rock, hip hop and classical artists, have collaborated on a single charity project.

The participants, in order of appearance on the CD: Alcasid, Jose Mari Chan, Gibbs, Rachele Ann Go, Jinky Vidal, Michael V, Sarah Geronimo, Jay-R, Jolina Magdangal, Christian Bautista with La Diva, Gary V, Martin Nievera, Regine Velasquez, Vina Morales, Rachel Alejandro, Geneva Cruz, KC Concepcion, Jett Pangan, Dingdong Avanzado, Randy Santiago, Agot Isidro, Gino Padilla, Jaya, Jay Durias, Opera, Gian Magdangal, Lovi Poe, Chris Cayzer, Yeng Constantino, Karylle, Luke Mijares, Victoria, Sitti, Wency Cornejo, The CompanY;

Noel Cabangon, Amber, Aiza Seguerra, Renz Verano, Richard Poon, Denise Laurel, Jan Nieto, Bo Cerrudo, Kris Lawrence, Duncan Ramos, Josh of Freestyle, Iya Villania, Lea Salonga, Rico Blanco, Joey Generoso, Nina, Arnel Pineda, Charice Pempengco, Piolo Pascual, Kyla, Erik Santos, Jed Madela, Mark Bautista, Pops Fernandez, Zsazsa Padilla, Juris of MYMP, Sharon Cuneta, Bing Loyzaga, Ryan Cayabyab Singers, Thor, Joscephine Gomez, Montet Acoymo and Andrew E. Poch Concepcion. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Talent manager loses P2.5M to con artists

By NANCY C. CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The talent manager of some of today's most famous stars lost P2.5 million in exchange for liver spread sold to her by a group of con artists, which included a Japanese national, police said.

Show business talent manager Rebecca Aguila Porcuna, more popularly known in showbiz circles as Becky Aguila, reported to Quezon City Police District in Camp Karingal on Wednesday afternoon that she lost at least P2.5 million last September to Linda Lopez, 54; Ricky Perez, 38; and Rolynic Marte, 40; Aldren Valiente; Cyrus Andales; Florande, and a man who claimed to be Yoshiyuki Mikimoto.

Porcuna, the manager of celebrities Angel Locsin, Jennylyn Mercado, and Valerie Concepcion, said the suspects duped her into buying "pearl enhancers" worth P2.5 million. Pearl enhancers are pieces of jewelry on which the pearls are mounted in a design. The talent manager said she met the suspects, separately when they inquired about a piece of property she was selling.

"They befriended me and talked about the production of cultured pearls," she recalled. And then, she said, they informed her that they would like to find buyers for their pearl enhancers, "which turned out to be cans of potted meat."

Porcuna, appeared at the QCPD-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit of the Quezon City Police District to give her statement to the police against the suspects, after three of them were arrested by San Juan City police in an entrapment operation staged by other victims.

She added she was aware she might not get her money back, but would be contented at the knowledge that the suspects were jailed.

"It's such a blessing that they got caught. I won't get my money back but at least they will not be able to victimize more people," she told police.

Porcuna also said that aside from her, six other people were victimized by the group and lost money ranging from P1.6 to P5 million.

Maharlika – Opinyon

What is moral and legal

Tolerance of wrongdoing is cowardice. Sustained tolerance of wrongdoing takes a sin of omission to the level of commission. What may begin as fear of leaving a comfort zone becomes cowardice by the continued acceptance of wrong. In the end, the worst sin is to establish what is wrong to be normal.

The corruption of our morals and ethics is not a sudden jump to evil. In fact, there was no jump at all. It is a daily process of surrendering our conscience to convenience, or surrendering what is good for others to what is good only for us or our families. It is the victory of selfishness and the defeat of the common good.

In the past, the use of force determined much of what was right or wrong. Conquerors set the definition of what is both legal and moral. Sometimes, the conquered would rebel. Most of the time, they would not succeed and suffer even a worse fate. That is why history can point to more conquests than successful rebellions. It took more than three hundred years, and several sporadic and local rebellions in between, before Filipinos could mount that revolution which almost succeeded.

America snatched what could have been a grand epiphany towards radical transformation for Filipinos. It had to be the fate of natives to ally itself with another foreign power to fight its foreign master of centuries. And when that ally betrayed their hopes, when the hero of democracy in the Western world chose tyranny instead, the earth and shores of the motherland turned red with the blood of her brave children.

The murderous subjugation by the United States of Filipino patriots was so severe that even America hid her shame and tried to erase from public memory the brutality and inhumanity she exercised to establish superiority for exploitation. It was not until several decades later when modernity and technology unearthed records of an old American Congress and brought them to the light of day. Despite that, most Filipinos have no idea how the American military caused the death of hundreds of thousands of Filipino men, women and children from bullets, bayonets, or conflict-related illnesses.

Twice, then, the subjugation of natives created a legal system that must have been claimed to be moral as well, applied it to a whole conquered people, and developed the basis for what was right or wrong in society. The wholesale land grab that is typical of colonization becomes the fundamental assumption of law. The hapless victim has no say as to his or her rights; only the conqueror decides what can be or cannot be, what is law and what is outside the law. In both cases for Filipinos, the land that was grabbed, some of which were sold back to natives as if ownership of their own land were a privilege, the applied laws assumed the morality and legality of conquest.

Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Because our freedom was not recovered by the blood of victorious rebellion but by the grace of a superior force, what was legal remains legal. Land that was stolen became land that was legally secured. The fact that land was sold back to natives added to the insult that a conquered people suffer - the victim of a robbery is forced to buy back his own goods!

The greater evil, which is not any less destructive to its victims today, is the landlessness which most Filipinos suffer today. Natives who did not have the money to buy back even a piece of what was stolen from them were continue to be deprived of their patrimony, deprived of their security, and denied the main gateway for growth and progress.

The greatest insult, though, is the way the new laws of what is supposed to be a free people, of a democratic country, continues to perpetuate the crime of usurpers. One land reform program to another accepts as a fundamental assumption that the land does not belong to the native until he pays for it. The land which was grabbed from the Filipino is sold to the victim, adding another layer of morality and legality to a horrible crime.

It is difficult for me to call our leaders evil for perpetuating evil. I cannot seem to imagine that Filipinos in authority, acting in collectivity as a Congress or bureaucracy, can deliberately choose wrong and legislate it to be right, moral and legal. What kind of blackness would be dominating men's souls then if that were true?

I am prone to believe that a warped value system developed by fear and cowardice over centuries is what drives authorities to continue to assuming what is wrong to be what is right. It begins as ignorance, simple ignorance. Yet, it evolves to become malice, or stupidity, as the unfairness of it all manifests itself in the daily application of injustice.

Today, Filipinos debate about agrarian reform, its extension of termination, its benefits or failure. Nobody in mainstream society brings out the wrong of land grabbing legitimized over the centuries, as though the act of buying back what was stolen was legal instead of one wrong aggravated by another.

All Filipinos deserve life-long security of tenure over a piece of land where a home and family can be built. Even those who have bought land from those who stole these from them deserve at least to be told that they were twice prejudiced. And those who have no right to be anywhere legally must be granted life-long possession and use of land even just for a decent home.

There is no more room for ignorance of the historical truth today. There is only room for cowardice. But if change is what most Filipinos seek, then the change must be fundamental, as fundamental as knowing the historical truth, and as fundamental as courage over fear. I know that correcting a historical anomaly is not easy, but the difficulty of finding solutions is no excuse for not trying. What is important is that what is wrong must be finally recognized as wrong, and what is right must be what we must be.

EDITORIAL

It stinks

No amount of spin, no amount of belated rationalization from Malacañang, no amount of preemptive legal gobbledygook from the spineless Ombudsman can obscure the most basic fact about the NBN-ZTE scandal. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was told that Benjamin Abalos, then the chairman of the Commission on Elections, offered Romulo Neri, then the economic planning secretary, a P200-million bribe to favor his bid—and she did nothing.

That's right. Nothing. It was Neri himself who told the Senate, under oath, that he had told the President of the bribe offer. (Abalos denied it, also under oath.) The President herself confirmed, before the Malacañang press corps, that Neri had told her of the attempted bribery. In a clear sign that the President's inaction after their conversation must have been damning, Neri refused to tell the Senate exactly what the President did, or ordered him to do, after he reported Abalos' temerity.

Perhaps Neri was prepared to accuse only Abalos; that must have been why he stopped his revelations at that point. It doesn't matter. His testimony, as it stands, indirectly accuses the President of doing nothing to stop a corrupt act, or investigate a corrupt official. It is this indirect but powerful accusation that has indicted Ms Arroyo before the bar of public opinion. All the rest—the allegation that Mike Arroyo, the President's husband, had told losing proponent Joey de Venecia to "back off," in a stormy meeting at the elite Wack-Wack golf club; the official kidnapping of dealmaker Jun Lozada when he seemed on the verge of talking about the contract; the fundamental ridiculousness of a grossly overpriced contract that was unnecessary in the first place—is detail.

The Senate report issued by Blue Ribbon Committee chair Sen. Richard Gordon on Tuesday, on behalf of the multi-committee panel investigating the NBN-ZTE deal, rightly zeroes in on the President's sin of omission.

"She did not stop all these people from continuing on with their nefarious activities," Gordon said at the news conference presenting the report. "Neri had already informed her [of the P200-million bribe], she should have ordered an investigation immediately. She should have called all those involved. The President did not do anything. That is very glaring—there was no action taken by the President on all these."

Some of the President's critics will argue that a deal as valuable as the NBN-ZTE contract could not have taken its final, corrupt shape without the President's own direct involvement. She could have cracked the whip precisely to change the nature of the deal from build-operate-transfer to a government loan, or to inflate the price, or to order the silencing of Lozada. But the report, which has already been signed by at least three other Senate heavyweights, goes only where the evidence leads. And the evidence points to the President's fatal inaction.

That should be enough.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

Filipino heroes in Hong Kong

Although I have been visiting Hong Kong regularly for close to four decades now, I never tire of the place because each trip always has a discovery. I have since outgrown the glitzy shopping malls of Tsim Tsa Tsui on Kowloon that Filipino shopaholics know like the back of their hand, and enjoy walking aimlessly on Hong Kong island not just to catch a glimpse of their colonial past, but to trace the places where our heroes lived in exile. Everyone knows that Jose Rizal maintained an eye clinic here and that one of his girlfriends, Josephine Bracken, was from Hong Kong, but it is not well known that others who figure in the birth of the nation once lived or visited Hong Kong, including Emilio Aguinaldo, Gregorio del Pilar, Pedro Paterno, Jose Ma. Basa, Felipe and Marcela Agoncillo.

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Rizal maintained an eye clinic on Hong Kong island. His calling cards provide three separate addresses: D'Aguilar Street and Duddell Street off bustling Queen's Road in a place everyone calls "Central" and a third address up in an area known as "Mid-levels," which is accessible through the longest escalator in the world, where he and members of his family lived. The place is called Rednaxela Terrace (that's Alexander spelled backwards). The Hong Kong Antiquities Board have installed historical markers in Daguilar Street and Rednaxela Terrace in recognition of the large Filipino community in Hong Kong. We can only hope that the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong can negotiate the installation of another marker on Duddell Street which still has the original granite steps and four gas lamps that Rizal saw in his time. That former Hong Kong Home Affairs Secretary Dr. Patrick Ho (2002-2007) happened to be a friend of the Filipino community and an ophthalmologist, who had a clinic on Daguilar Street like Rizal, probably explains why Rizal is honored by two historical markers. But why not three?

Some people may say that history over-emphasizes Rizal and ignores other heroes. Well, history is based on written records and Rizal happened to write a great deal, and his papers have come down to our times. Aguinaldo and Del Pilar were so busy fighting a revolution or eluding the enemy that they had little time to write or conserve what little was written.

While Rizal's business cards provide us with his addresses, we are not so lucky with others. Where did Emilio Aguinaldo stay? Where did the dashing Gregorio del Pilar have his suits made? Where did Pedro Paterno go for curios that he installed in his "museum"? There is even a question on where exactly the Agoncillos lived because there is Morrison Road and Morrison Hill Road.

All this requires new research, perhaps by Filipino journalists in Hong Kong like Isabel Escoda, Daisy Mandap or Alexandra Seno. The Hong Kong Antiquities Board has installed a marker on Morrison Hill Road, now a children's playground, where Felipe and Marcela Agoncillo once lived. It was in their home that the flag of the first Philippine Republic was sewn.

We know that both Rizal and Aguinaldo maintained accounts with the Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp., but where was this before?

There are more obscure Filipinos who made a home in Hong Kong, like Balvino Mauricio who is mentioned in the memoirs of Jose Alejandrino and remembered basically for a piece of art by Jose Honorato Lozano who spelled out Mauricio's name and ornamented each letter with figures and plants creating that wonderful form we know as "letras y figuras." Jose Ma. Basa was a long-time resident who lived in a place called Remedios Terrace. It was he who found ways and means to smuggle Rizal's novels into Manila from Hong Kong. He was a successful businessman who, according to the late Austin Coates, was known as the "Potato King of HK" whatever that means.

I visited the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Museum in on Caine Road to see a wonderfully restored early 20th-century building and learn about the life and times of Dr. Sun, acknowledged as the Father of Modern China. He and Rizal would have gotten along well. Both of them saw the future of their countries and worked for it. Both of them lived in Hong Kong at some point in their lives and they had common friends. It is unfortunate they did not meet.

However, there is a Philippine connection with Dr. Sun because he met and knew Mariano Ponce in Yokohama. I was disappointed that no reference, not even a footnote on this, was anywhere to be found in the Sun Yat Sen Museum. Ponce and Sun have a wonderful photograph together, Dr. Sun in Western garb and Ponce in Japanese attire. Again this is a detail that our consulate general should pursue to have this Philippine reference included in the exciting life of Dr. Sun as presented in this impressive museum.

With all these fascinating leads on Philippine history in Hong Kong, one can sense a Ph.D. dissertation or a book crying out to be written. Hong Kong is so accessible these days; it is less than two hours away by plane, does not require a visa for short stays, and with airlines competing for passengers, a round-trip Manila-Hong Kong budget ticket from PAL at $99 is cheaper than the regular fare to Cebu or Davao. All their newspapers, with all the Philippine news of the 19th century are available and downloadable on the Internet. The material lies in wait for the right writer.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

CRASH

A car's hood is damaged after a two-vehicle crash at the intersection in front of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Susupe past 11am Thursday. No one was severely injured in the accident.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Pvt. Jerry T. Guerrero II, for completing his Advanced Individual Training on Nov. 12, 2009, in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Guerrero, 18, graduated from Basic Combat Training in September 2009, also in Fort Jackson. His military occupation specialty is in Human Resources Information System Management. He will be furthering his education this spring at the University of Guam. He is the son of a Juliana de la Rosa and the late Jeffrey N. Maratita of Saipan and Jerry and Michelle Guerrero of Guam. His grandparents are Antonio and Antonia de la Rosa and Thomas and Doreen Guerrero. "We are proud of your accomplishments during your Basic and Advanced Individual Training and we honor you for serving our country. HOOAH!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE

Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele, right, turns over a 2010 Mazda 3 to Hyatt Regency Saipan GM Nick Nishikawa at the lobby of the resort hotel. The car will be a hole-in-one prize for the Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic, which will be held at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort's West Course today, Nov. 14, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ARRA MEETING

Gov. Felix P. Camacho last week met with U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to discuss the use of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the island's seaport and airport expansions and local roadway infrastructure improvements. From left, Glenn Leon Guerrero, general manager, Port Authority of Guam; LaHood; Camacho; and Terry Mortera, director, Guam Liaison Office in Washington, D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 5th birthday to my princess, Kierstin Konnisha, who is celebrating her special day today, Nov. 14, 2009! Wishing you many blessings on your birthday. With lots of love from Daddy, Auntie Julie, and Jiana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OUSTANDING SERVICE

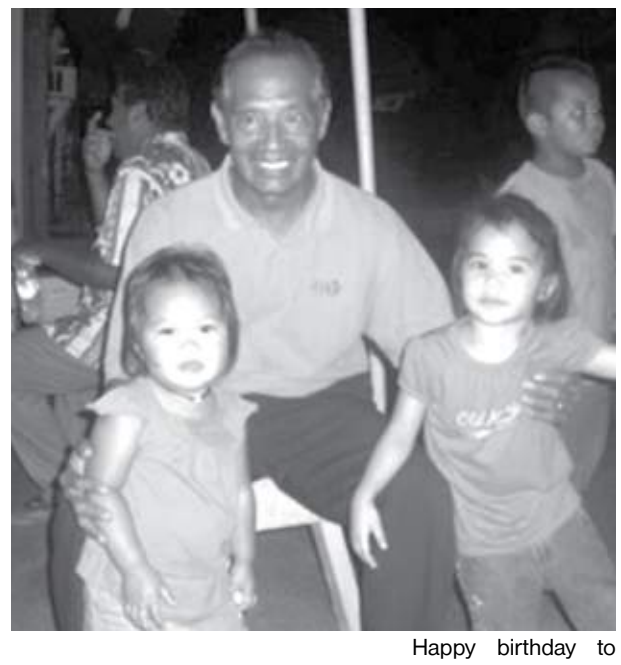
Pete JL Igitol, left, receives a place of appreciation from Route Inn president and owner Katsutoshi Nagayama, right, for his 21 years of outstanding service with the Hafa Adai Beach Hotel Saipan in Garapan. The hotel hosted a luncheon in Igitol's honor on Tuesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ROTARY GUEST

NMC

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez gestures as she discusses the college's accomplishments and ongoing challenges at a recent presentation to the members of the Rotary Club of Saipan.



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, left, shakes hands with Route Inn president and owner Katsutoshi Nagayama, right, during a luncheon for Hafa Adai Beach Hotel's Pete JL Igitol on Tuesday. Also in photo is Kayoko Hasimoto.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

VETERANS DAY

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Col. Daniel J. Settergren, commander of the 36th Contingency Response Group at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, lead dignitaries, military service members and veterans in laying a wreath as part of Wednesday's Veterans Day ceremony at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Happy birthday to a loving husband, father and grandpa, Theodore Ngewakl, shown in this picture with his granddaughters Pia Helene and Leticia "Eberdil"! We hope you enjoy your day and may the Lord continue to bless you today and always! We love you so much! Greetings come from your loving wife, children and grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

Who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?

By MOIRA E. MCLAUGHLIN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Nov. 13 is the 27th anniversary of the unveiling of the somber Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a wall on the national Mall in Washington that sinks into the ground and lists all the U.S. soldiers who died or were left missing in action in Vietnam from 1956 to 1975.

A national competition open to any U.S. citizen older than 18 decided the design of the memorial. The rules stated that designs had to be thoughtful and fit into the Mall surroundings. They had to include all the names of those who were killed or were missing in action, and they could not display an opinion about the controversial Vietnam War.

Maya Lin, a Chinese-American from Ohio, was a senior at Yale University majoring in architecture when she submitted her design for the memorial. After considering proposals from more than 1,400 applicants, the eight judges decided Lin's design was the best.

Not everyone in the public liked the low, black granite monument, however. Some were offended by it. It had none of the standard elements of a memorial, such as a flag, statues or white marble. To compromise, the memorial organizers agreed to add an American flag and three bronze statues of soldiers made by sculptor Frederic Hart to the memorial.

Today more than 4 million people visit the memorial every year.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Nov. 13 is the 27th anniversary of the unveiling of the somber Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, which lists all the U.S. soldiers who died or were left missing in action in Vietnam from 1956 to 1975. Maya Lin's plan for the memorial beat out more than 1,400 designs. She's shown in March at a Corcoran gallery exhibit of her sculptures.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fact

There are 58,261 names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. For more information, see http://the-wall-usa.com/information.asp

(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Creating toys with their own two hands

WASHINGTON—What if you had no toys? What do you think you would play with? Most likely, as millions of poor children do around the world, you would end up making your own toys, at least sometimes.

An organization called ChildFund International, which helps children in need around the globe, has put together a collection of toys made by some of the children it has helped. The group has been sending an exhibit of the toys to several cities across the country to show off the creativity of these children, despite living in the poorest or most difficult conditions.

"We think each toy is a testament to the potential each kid has—even kids who are deprived," said Anne Goddard, who is the president of ChildFund.

Among the toys that have traveled around the United States are soccer balls, dolls, cars and kites made from any kind of material you could imagine, including trash, tree bark, wire, paper and string. Gustavo, a 9-year-old from Mexico, put wheels on an old shoe—and presto, it's a car! The stitching on the car even looks like racing stripes.

Goddard said building toys is important for kids who can't go buy them from a store—and not just because it gives them something to play with. Creating a toy from scratch helps kids learn to solve problems and work cooperatively, and builds confidence and self-esteem. Once the organization decided to do an exhibition, ChildFund workers began asking children if they would give up their toys so they could be shown in America. Goddard said the kids felt "really proud that they made something important enough" to be shown in the United States, and some were even inspired to make different and better models of their toys as a result. Ten-year-old Mahindra from India, for example, started working on new go-cart models after he gave the first one he built to ChildFund.

THE WASHINGTON POST
A young girl from Vietnam holds two dolls she made from scraps of fabric and paper. To raise awareness of the plight of children, and to show their resilience, ChildFund International is sponsoring a traveling exhibition to showcase the resourcefulness of the children who created each toy and to illustrate the importance of play in a child's development.

"Even in the most (extreme) situations, kids still need to play," Goddard said. "It makes life normal again, but kids also need to play because it's very important for their development as a kid. We want to encourage that."

'Sesame Street' at 40

By ROBERT LLOYD
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Happy birthday, "Sesame Street." You are 40 years old now, just a year younger than Mickey Mouse was the year you arrived on television—and he was semi-retired by then, while you still report to work each day. Tuesday morning you begin your 41st season, you and your cast of aging humans and ageless Muppets, with three first-episode veterans still in residence: Bob McGrath (who plays Bob), Loretta Long (called Susan) and Big Bird, who is still only 6 years old, although the man inside him, Caroll Spinney, will turn 76 next month. (The Bird's voice has dropped a little, but you should be so spry.) That kind of continuity is rare, if not otherwise nonexistent, on television. Certainly there is no other children's show to match you for longevity, cultural penetration or global reach.

The occasion is also being marked by the release of "Sesame Street: 40 Years of Sunny Days," a two-DVD set that, given the fact that today's episode is numbered 4,187 understandably fails to give the series its due. (Previously available sets spend three discs each on the first and second five years of the show.) But it does give something of its changing flavor and cast of characters (Kermit, Bert, Ernie, Cookie Monster, Grover, Elmo, Elmo, Elmo, Elmo), its working method and its huge ambitions: Birth, death, marriage, a hurricane—the street has seen it all.

This was, of course, not the first educational series for kids. "Ding Dong School" with Miss Frances (Dr. Frances Horwich) goes back right to the Golden Age, and you could pick up odd bits of useful knowledge from "Captain Kangaroo," still going strong when "Sesame Street" bowed in the year of the moon landing and Altamont, or from "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," which premiered the year before. The franchised "Romper Room" suggested a pre-school, but in those days that meant marching in circles and ritual socialization: Do be a Do-Bee, Don't be a Don't-Bee; it didn't get any deeper than that.

"Sesame Street," by contrast, was conceived from the beginning as an instrument of learning and uplift -- a Head Start of the Air that would, by a sort of pedagogical jiu jitsu, use the force of an addictive medium to its own higher ends. It was largely, though never exclusively, meant to give a leg-

up to disadvantaged kids, and to get parents involved by putting on a show that was also attractive to them. I was no longer a child nor yet an adult when "Sesame Street" began, but I was certainly attracted: It looked like nothing else on television, showcasing independent animation at a time when that art was elsewhere reaching new lows. And it had Muppets, who came from the world of grown-up show business and added—although it's odd to say—sophistication to the mix.

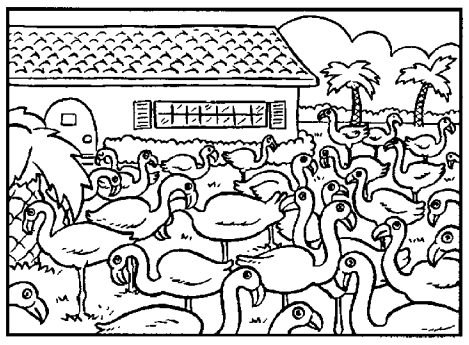
And then there was the setting: Where most kids' shows took place within some snug refuge, a Treasure House or a Nice Man's Living Room, "Sesame Street" is set out on the sidewalk, and therefore in a community, in what was clearly the city of New York—and not the Starbucked and Disneyfied Manhattan of contemporary commerce, but a funky working-class neighborhood where laundry dries on clotheslines and trash cans sit by the stoop. (They cast the brownstone steps in concrete so they would sound right when anyone pounded up or down them.) Radically—really, radically, in 1969—it prominently featured black actors (and Latin and Asian soon afterward). The series remains peerlessly multicultural and multicolored—blue, orange, red, green, yellow, purple, all the primary and secondary hues, plus the usual variations on black, white and brown.

Because it is in part publicly funded, and because, notwithstanding some fluctuation in viewership, it is regarded as important, it stirs up controversy now and again. That the next couple of seasons will feature a curriculum "designed to create a love and understanding of the natural world" some might describe as propaganda. And there was a small storm recently over a joke mentioning "Pox News" as a "trashy news show"—that these were garbage-loving Grouches talking gives it the proper context, but PBS Ombudsman Michael Getler still blogged a kind of apology: "Broadcasters can tell parents whatever they think of Fox or any other network, but you shouldn't do it through the kids."

At the same time, the show also relies for survival on its success as a brand, a commercial entity: The wearing ubiquity of Elmo seems a function of that. New this year is a cartoon series, "Abby's Flying Fairy School," featuring sparkly pink Abby Caddaby, which is being ballyhooed as the first CGI transformation of a "Sesame Street" character, as if that were a great thing and not, as it seems to me, a bid to compete with other kids' shows—of which there are now many more than there were 40 years ago—on their own, lower level. There's more magic in even a moderately well-handled sock puppet than in the most expensively rendered computer image.

Still, every neighborhood changes with time. Cookie Monster also eats fruit now. The teaching of letters and numbers has contracted into a couple of spots in the show—"40" is today's number—and the old mosaic approach, an energetically ragtag olio of short films interlaced with a longer street-set story, has been streamlined into a relatively few discrete blocks.

Like New York itself, it is a tidier place than in 1969. Still, "Sesame Street" is not here to satisfy my aesthetic preferences or Grouch-like nostalgia for the mud. It is here for your children, and for all the right reasons.



AUNT FLO'S FLAMINGO FRENZY! See if you can add up all of the pink flamingoes that Aunt Flo has put in her front yard. (Count them with a friend and see if you both get the same total.)

Illustrated by David Coulson

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

1.	A						K
2.		A				K	
3.			A		K		
4.				A	K		
5.				K	A		
6.			K			A	
7.		K					A
8.	K						A

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

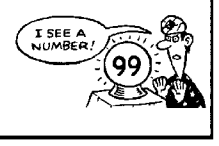
Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

DEFINITIONS:	ANAGRAM:
1. A footnote reference.	skit + ears
2. Narrow, elevated walkways.	talk + caws
3. A wine container.	oink + tags
4. What waves become.	reek + bars
5. Christmas post office headache.	cake + gasp
6. Lacking in conviction.	wale + murk
7. A small head covering.	pull + sack
8. A Polish treat.	sail + bake

Answers: 1. Asterisk. 2. Catwalks. 3. Goatskin. 4. Breakers. 5. Packages. 6. Lukewarm. 7. Skullcap. 8. Kielbasa.

MESMERIZING MATH!
The swami has discovered that if you multiply 99 by any number from 1 to 100, the product will always contain digits that total 18. Try it out: (99 x 9 = 891; 8 + 9 + 1 = 18), (99 x 4 = 396; 3 + 9 + 6 = 18).



LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1.	LEG	LACE
2.	MALE	ATE
3.	NEED	ION
4.	REP	LED
5.	NONE	MUTE
6.	PAL	VENT

Answers: Legion, malemute, needled, replace, nonevent, palate.

Don't forget Fido during holidays

It's that time of year again. The holidays are moving into full swing as we prepare for Thanksgiving, with Christmas and New Year's approaching fast. And amid all the bustle, it's important to remember our pets and keep them safe.

Melanie Monteiro, the author of "The Safe Dog Handbook: A Complete Guide to Protecting Your Pooch, Indoors and Out" (Quarry Books) offers some important tips to keep dogs—and other pets—safe this holiday season and throughout the year.

■ Poisoning: Ingesting chocolate or sweets that contain ingredients like raisins or xylitol (an artificial sweetener) can cause severe health complications and possibly death.

■ Choking: Small decorations, candy wrappers, holiday lights and wrapping papers are among the items that a pet can ingest and possibly choke on.

■ "Bolting": A pet can run away when alarmed, particularly at loud noises or when surrounded by unfamiliar people. A pet may run outside as you open the door, or may escape unnoticed while you're entertaining.

■ Costumes: Antlers on a pup are cute, but make sure they aren't hurting it and that no small parts can fall off or be chewed off and ingested. Pet costumes shouldn't restrict movement or have elastic bands, and should allow the pet to eat, drink and eliminate when needed.

Throughout the season, make time for your pet. It's easy for extra walks and play time to fall by the wayside as relatives and friends filter through. Your pet will adjust more easily to the stresses of the holidays if its regular schedule is maintained.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Harry S. Truman, the 33rd president of the United States, who made the following sage observation: "It's a recession when your neighbor loses his job; it's a depression when you lose yours."

■ In all likelihood, you've never heard of an ailment known as aquagenic urticaria. It's extremely rare, affecting only 1 out of every 23 million people on the planet. Those who suffer from this disease are hypersensitive to the ions found in non-distilled water. They can drink distilled water, but if they come into contact with any other kind of water, they break out in a painful allergic rash.

■ The country of Finland has more islands than any other nation on Earth.

■ Next time you're heading to sunny Florida for a vacation, try to make it to Key Largo to stay at the Jules Undersea Lodge. True to its name, the hotel is located 21 feet under water, and guests have to scuba dive to the entrance. And if you don't already know how to scuba dive, don't worry—the management offers a two-hour introduction so you can make it to your room.

■ Someone with way too much time on his hands discovered that a quarter has 119 grooves along its edge.

■ From the Yes, There Is a Word for It files comes today's entry: acnestis. This word denotes that part of the body that you cannot reach to scratch (and it's an excellent reason to get married). This handy noun comes from the word "aknestis," which, perhaps unsurprisingly, means "spine" in Greek.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Women speak because they wish to speak, whereas a man speaks only when driven to speech by something outside himself—like, for instance, he can't find any clean socks." —Jean Kerr

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ● FLOWER GIFTS FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

F V S P M J H E B Y R V T Q O
L Y I G D N B Y W T E R P M K
I F E D B Y O W U S W Q L O M
K L I L F D B I Z X O I W U S
Q O I N L L J H T U L I P F D
C H Y D R A N G E A F S Y A A
Y W V N O T V S C S N I S L Q
P N L K O F I H F T U R I L E
C B R O S E F R E E S I A A Z
Y W V U S R P A Q R P N D C M
L J I A I L H A D I H C R O H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Aster, Calla, Carnation, Daffodil, Dahlia, Daisy, Freesia, Hydrangea, Iris, Lilac, Orchid, Peony, Rose, Sunflower, Tulip

©2009 King Features, Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

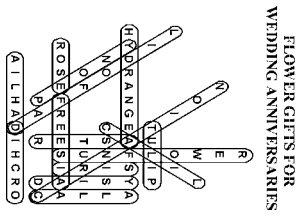
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		11
−		+		÷	
	+		+		7
x		x		+	
	−		x		18
25		8		10	

1 2 2 3 4 5 6 8 9

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	10		8		25
18	6	x	2	−	5
	+		x		x
7	2	+	1	+	4
	÷		+		−
11	8	+	3	÷	9

Thanksgiving weekend family brunch dish

I look forward to Thanksgiving Day not only for the traditional extended family gathering and feast at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, but also for the annual early-morning coffee klatch with six neighborhood moms. We take turns hosting, depending on who isn't doing the big turkey dinner for our particular families. So this year, it's my turn to put on the coffee and come up with a special breakfast treat.

I'll do my favorite updated version of a cheesy-egg dish that I prep the night before and let set in the refrigerator overnight. I'll sleep easy knowing it will be ready to simply pop in the oven and serve with a heaping bowl of fresh fruit on the side when my girlfriends arrive.

If you have a houseful of relatives coming, hang onto this easy recipe and prepare it for a memorable and relaxing breakfast brunch any morning over the long Thanksgiving weekend. Be sure to grab one of your kids to help you put it together the night before. There is cheese to shred, bread to cube and lots of eggs to crack—perfect jobs for junior chefs.

EASY OVERNIGHT BRUNCH DISH

2 French baguettes (or 16 slices of white bread with crusts removed)
2 cups cooked ham cut in chunks
10 eggs, beaten
3 1/2 cups milk
2 cups cubed or grated sharp cheddar cheese
1 cup Monterey Jack cheese (I substitute pepper Jack cheese when we want a spicy taste)
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt and cracked pepper to taste

Put it together the night before:

1. Slice one baguette in 1-inch slices and cut the second into 1-inch cubes. Set the slices in a buttered 13-by-9-by-2-inch glass baking dish. Sprinkle ham and cheeses over the bread, then scatter cubed bread on top.

2. Combine beaten eggs, milk, mustard, and salt and pepper, and pour mixture over all, making sure bread squares are soaked with the mixture.

Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.

3. In the morning, remove foil, preheat oven to 350 F and bake for an hour.

Let stand for 10 minutes, then cut into squares to serve. Serves 8.

"The grandkids are coming!" tip: Show your grandchild that orange juice doesn't have to come from a cardboard carton at the grocery store. Since fresh juice oranges are plentiful this time of year, cut a dozen or so in half crosswise and juice them together for a zippy taste of "fresh-squeezed OJ" with breakfast.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

(c) 2009 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

Palin in book: McCain aides kept me 'bottled up'

NEW YORK (AP)—The rumors are true, according to Sarah Palin: The McCain-Palin campaign was not a happy family. In Palin's new memoir, "Going Rogue," she confirms reports of tension between her aides and those of the 2008 Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain. The vice presidential candidate confirms that she had wanted to speak on election night, but was denied the chance and says she was kept "bottled up" from reporters during the campaign.

Palin also writes harshly of CBS anchor Katie Couric, whom she describes as "badgering" and biased. Palin's series of interviews with Couric were widely regarded as disastrous, leaving the impression of an ill-informed candidate who was unsuited for the job.

The 413-page book with 16 pages of color photos but no index comes out Tuesday, Nov. 17. The Associated Press purchased a copy Thursday. "Going Rogue," with a first printing of 1.5 million copies, has been at or near the top of Amazon.com and other best-seller lists for weeks, ever since publisher HarperCollins announced that the book had been completed quickly and the release date was being moved up from next spring.

The book follows Palin from childhood to her departure last summer as Alaska governor. It includes much of what her admirers, and detractors, expected: tributes to family and faith and patriotism, and attacks against the media and other perceived opponents.

She writes about the "jaded aura" of professional campaign aides and how McCain's entourage limited her access to the media, leading to allegations—unfounded, she says—that she was avoiding reporters.

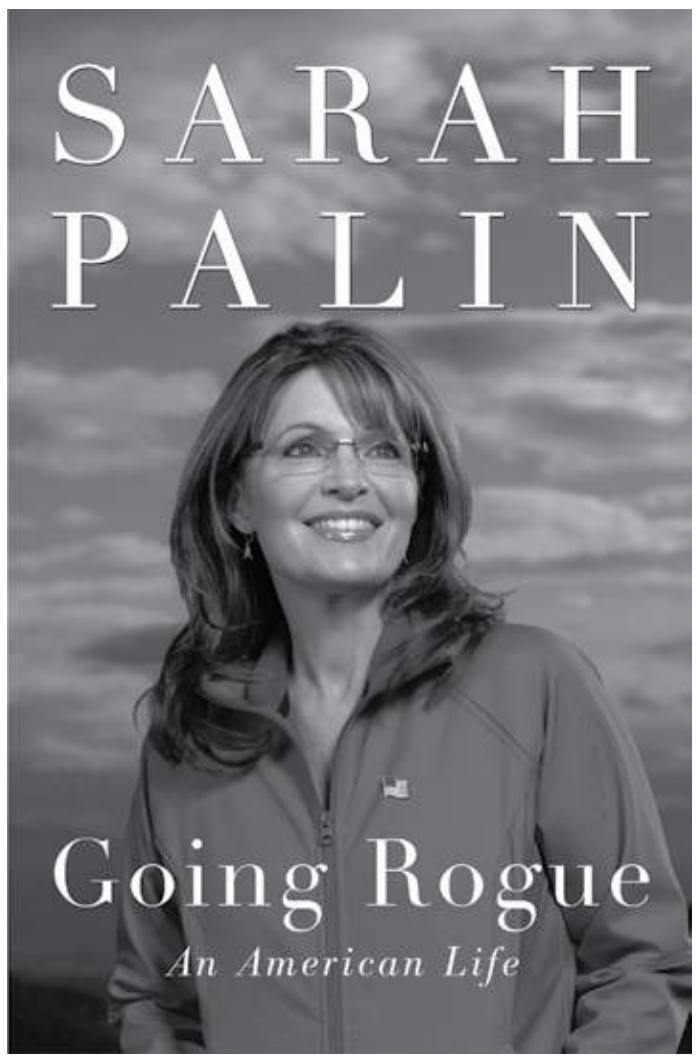
And she says that most of her legal bills were generated defending what she called frivolous ethics complaints, but she reveals that about one-tenth of the $500,000 was a bill she received to pay for the McCain campaign vetting her for the VP nod.

She said when she asked the McCain campaign if it would help her financially, she was told McCain's camp would have paid all the bills if he'd won; since he lost, the vetting legal bills were her responsibility.

Written with Lynn Vincent, "Going Rogue" is folksy in tone and homespun. For example, Palin says her efforts to award a license for a massive natural gas transmission line through Alaska was turning a pipe dream into a pipeline. She writes in awe about how the McCain campaign had hired a New York stylist who had also worked on Couric.

Taken aback by all the fussing, she wondered who was paying for the $150,000 worth of fancy clothes given to her and her family members by the campaign. Family members were told it was being taken care of or was "part of the convention." The designer clothing, hairstyling and accessories later grew into a controversy.

Palin shares behind-the-scene moments when the nation learned her teen daughter Bristol was pregnant, how she rewrote the statement prepared for her by the McCain campaign—only to watch in horror as a TV news anchor read the original McCain camp statement, which, in Palin's view, glamorized and endorsed her daughter's situation.



AP
In this book cover image released by Harper, "Going Rogue: An American Life," by Sarah Palin, is shown.

Palin laments that she wasn't allowed to bring up loads of family members to the stage while McCain gave his election night concession speech, the vice presidential candidate having found out minutes earlier that she wouldn't be permitted to give her own speech.

She writes that ABC newsman Charles Gibson, who had an early interview with her, seemed bored by "substantive issues" stemming from her time as governor and that while speaking with her he "peered skeptically" at her over his glasses like a disapproving principal.

She writes at length about Couric. She says that the idea to meet with Couric came from McCain campaign aide Nicolle Wallace, who told Palin that Couric—also a working mother—liked and admired her. It would be a favor to Couric, too, whom Palin notes had the lowest ratings of the network anchors. Wallace said Couric suffered from low self-esteem. And Palin replied that she almost began to "feel sorry" for Couric.

She alleges that Couric and CBS left out her more "substantive" remarks and settled for "gotcha" moments. She writes that Couric had a "partisan agenda" and a condescending manner. Couric was "badgering," biased and far easier on Couric's Democratic counterpart, Joe Biden.

She writes warmly of her childhood and her mother's "nurturing, hospitable" personality. Her priorities were set early—faith (she would read Scripture each night before bed), hunting, current events and sports (she even dreamed of being a broadcaster alongside Howard Cosell). She remembers being a voracious reader, favorites including John Steinbeck's "The Pearl" and George Orwell's "Animal Farm." Long before Tina Fey parodied her on "Saturday Night Live," Palin enjoyed watching the show as a girl.

She met her future husband, Todd Palin, in 1982. He was good-looking and mature, like no one she had ever known. He was quiet, gruff, strong, spiritual.

Taylor Swift's turn as entertainer of the year

By CHRIS TALBOTT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—All four of the guys who lost to Taylor Swift for entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards made a tactical error: They asked the crossover sensation to open for them in their concerts.

Swift quickly shed her opener status and shook up the music world with an incredible year that included the best-selling album, a concert tour that sold out almost immediately and, now, a historic night at the CMAs that included becoming the youngest winner of the association's highest honor.

"Yeah, next year we're not going to take any opening acts out," Brad Paisley said jokingly.

The CMA's more than 5,000 members—often cited as a conservative bunch—seemed as taken with Swift as the rest of the music world has been. She won all four awards for which she was nominated, snapping Kenny Chesney's streak of four entertainer wins in the last five years and Carrie Underwood's three-year run as top female vocalist.

Chesney hugged and kissed Swift on her way to the stage and most of her peers hailed her Wednesday night during the ABC telecast at the Sommet Center.

"She has taken the music world by storm," Paisley said. "She's the biggest artist in music right now, by far. It's hands down. She's entertainer of the year in country music, no doubt, and I'm really proud of her."

Swift also won album of the year for "Fearless," the top-selling CD of the year, and video of the year for "Love Story."

After being presented with the entertainer trophy by her childhood idol Faith Hill, Swift called her band on stage and was the center of a group hug as fans cheered wildly, holding signs that said, "We love you, Taylor." Her father cried in the audience.

"I'll never forget this moment because in this moment everything that I have ever wanted has just happened to me," Swift said through tears.

AP
Country artist Taylor Swift poses in the press room with her Video of the Year, Album of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year and Entertainer of the Year awards during the 43rd Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn. Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009.

Tyson faces jail if scuffle is deemed a violation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, who was arrested in a scuffle with a photographer, could be sent to jail if he's found to have violated probation from a 2007 drug case, officials said Thursday.

The 43-year-old former heavyweight champion and a photographer, Tony Echeverria, made citizens' arrests of each other following a confrontation at about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at Los Angeles International Airport.

Each man claimed the other struck him, police said.

Airport police were called, and the men were taken away for booking on suspicion of misdemeanor battery. They were fingerprinted and photographed, then released without bail, Sgt. Jim Holcomb said.

The city attorney will decide whether to file criminal charges.

Tyson

Tyson is on probation after pleading guilty in Arizona to cocaine possession and driving under the influence. He spent 24 hours in jail there.

Zach Dal Pra, deputy chief of the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department, said his office is still trying to get in touch with Los Angeles authorities to figure out exactly what transpired during the airport incident.

"Did Mr. Tyson's actions constitute a violation of probation here? If so, we'll start court proceedings," he said. "Right now, we're still in that investigative mode."

Tyson could face jail time if a court finds that he violated his probation, Dal Pra said.

Tyson had stopped at LAX while traveling from Europe to Las Vegas when several photographers began snapping pictures of him near a ticket counter, Holcomb said.

Echeverria, 50, who described himself as a freelance photographer, told police that Tyson struck him once. The photographer fell to the ground and was treated for a cut to his forehead at a hospital.

Tyson's spokeswoman, Tammy Brook, said the boxer was traveling with his wife and 10-month-old child when he was attacked by an overly aggressive paparazzo. She said Echeverria repeatedly refused to comply with orders from airport personnel to leave the family alone and at one point collided with the baby's stroller.

"Mike acted in self defense as a father protecting his child," Brook said.

Echeverria's camera was booked as evidence, and police were checking if there was any surveillance video of the incident.

Tyson was cooperative as he waited in a holding cell at the airport police station, Holcomb said. Echeverria was treated at a hospital while Tyson continued his trip, Holcomb said.

Holcomb said both men were released without any restrictions and were free to go wherever they wanted.

Paparazzi often camp out at Los Angeles' largest airport to get shots of celebrities in transit.

Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion ever in 1986 when he won his title as a 20-year-old. But his life since then has been marred by accusations of domestic violence, rape and cocaine use.

Tyson was convicted of rape in Indiana in 1992 and served three years in prison.

'Call of Duty' sells $310M in N. Amer., UK in 24 hrs

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—First-day sales of Activision Blizzard Inc.'s "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" broke records, raking in an estimated $310 million in North America and the United Kingdom alone.

The video game went on sale all over the world on Tuesday, but Activision provided figures Thursday only for North America and Britain. The company estimates that it sold about 4.7 million copies of the game in the first 24 hours in those markets, making it the biggest-selling launch in the history of entertainment.

The latest installment in the "Call of Duty" action franchise was expected to at least match last year's "Grand Theft Auto IV," which was the most successful video game release in history and at the time may have been the top entertainment launch ever.

That game, from Take-Two Interactive Software Inc., had sold 3.6 million units on its opening day, worth $310 million worldwide. "Call of Duty" made that much in just North America and Britain.

The launch of "Call of Duty" also easily brought in more than last year's record $155 million opening weekend for the Batman movie "The Dark Knight."

Like the previous five "Call of Duty" games, which are all rated "M" for mature (not for kids under 17), this one lets players shoot their way through a complex series of scenes. The game's developer, Infinity Ward, spent two years creating realistic graphics that are amplified in many players' homes by big-screen, high-definition TVs sets and powerful speakers.

AP

In this Nov. 10, 2009 file photo, Erik Cota walks out of the a Game Stop in Redwood City, Calif., with his copy of "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" shortly after midnight.

Players can fight one another, whether they're at the same game console or in separate locations and connected online. Or a player can dive in alone and get swept into the game, which includes jarring depictions of war and an intricate story of good versus evil.

The game sells for $60 and plays on Windows-based computers, Microsoft's Xbox 360 and Sony's PlayStation 3.

Shares of Activision, which is based in Santa Monica, rose 6 cents to close Thursday at $11.44.

Scorsese earns DeMille lifetime honor at Globes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Martin Scorsese is receiving the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement at the Golden Globes.

The award will be presented to Scorsese at the 67th annual Globes on Jan. 17.

Scorsese turns 67 next week and is an Academy Award winner for directing "The Departed" and a two-time Golden Globe winner for that film and "Gangs of New York." He also was nominated for Oscars and Globes for such films as "Raging Bull," "Goodfellas" and "The Aviator."

Actress Vera Farmiga, who appeared in "The Departed," made the announcement Thursday at a press conference in Beverly Hills. For Scorsese, filmmaking is "a holy experience," she said.

AP

This Nov. 5, 2008 file photo shows director Martin Scorsese in New York.

"He has the power to rouse a crowd and bring them along on his holy mission," Farmiga said. "He considers it holy work, and cinema is his shrine. And he instills in the actors, in the crew, and everybody around him just what a powerful tool it is."

Past winners of the DeMille award include last year's recipient, Steven Spielberg, along with Warren Beatty, Anthony Hopkins and Michael Douglas.

Philip Berk, president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which puts on the Globes, said that, for the first time, the Golden Globes will be broadcast live across the country, instead of tape-delayed on the West Coast.

"The entire country will find out our winners at the exact moment," he said.

'Wipeout' TV show player with rare condition dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A contestant who was hospitalized after competing briefly on the game show "Wipeout" died two weeks later of a stroke apparently caused by a rare condition, his father said.

Tom Sparks, 33, was participating in the first segment of an obstacle course Oct. 19 when he complained of knee pain, according to Endemol, the company which produces "Wipeout" for ABC.

Producers had him stop, Endemol said Thursday. On-set medics examined Sparks, noticed he was short of breath and took him to a local hospital.

He was moved to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and underwent several brain surgeries, according to TheWrap.com, which first reported Sparks' Nov. 5 death. Sparks couldn't be saved because of the brain damage that had occurred, the Web site said, citing an e-mail to alumni from a faculty member at Sparks' alma mater.

Sparks, a former Sun Valley, Idaho, radio disc jockey, earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and later earned a master's degree from the USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism.

In a statement to the Idaho Mountain Express and Guide, Bill Sparks, his father, said doctors determined the stroke probably was caused by antiphospholipid antibody syndrome, known as APS.

Studio settlement reported for fake movie news

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—Universal Pictures has agreed to pay $20,000 to the Alaska Press Club to settle complaints about fake news archives used to promote the movie "The Fourth Kind," the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported.

The Anchorage lawyer who negotiated the settlement for the Fairbanks paper and six other media outlets, John McKay, said the fake online stories undermined the credibility of the news organizations.

Universal created a series of fabricated online news articles to publicize the movie about a purported plague of alien abductions in Nome a decade ago. The articles posted appeared to be from real Alaska publications.

The articles included a fake obituary and news story about the death of a character in the movie, Dr. William Tyler, that supposedly were from the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

The settlement also requires Universal to remove the fake news articles from the Internet.

McKay praised the company for responding quickly to the complaints.

The Alaska Press Club wasn't part of the complaint, but McKay suggested it receive settlement money as a compromise that would benefit Alaska journalism.

Advocacy groups claim victory after Dobbs exit

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN moved swiftly to replace Lou Dobbs in its nightly lineup with John King, who said Thursday that all views would be welcome on his politically-oriented talk show when it debuts early next year.

Dobbs' abrupt exit prompted a victory lap by advocacy groups that had sought his ouster for outspokenness, particularly on illegal immigration. But CNN President Jon Klein said their pressure had nothing to do with the decision.

Klein said veteran political reporter King was the perfect choice for the passionate, nonpartisan reporting that CNN wants for its image.

Dobbs

King will be leaving the Sunday political talk show he has been presiding over, creating another opening.

King will compete directly with another political hour, Chris Matthews' "Hardball" on MSNBC (Shepard Smith's general interest newscast on Fox News Channel is the cable news ratings leader at 7 p.m. ET). The CNN personality said he hoped to establish a show offering more meaty fare than his competitors.

"Anybody who has a major stake in a major topic will be invited to be on the show," said King, whose Washington-based program has no name yet.

Dobbs was a CNN original who was one of the TV business' leading financial journalists before taking on many other topics post-9/11, and increasingly offering his own opinion.

Teen looks for ammunition in battle with peer pressure

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old boy. I went to a party last weekend and some people pressured me to do some uncomfortable stuff. Can you advise me—and other teens—how to handle peer pressure?

ASHAMED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ASHAMED: I'll try. Please remember that it takes a strong and confident person not to follow the crowd and stick to your own convictions—especially when you want to fit in. But it is those who value their self-respect more than "mob" respect, who care about their reputations (and their records) who summon up the courage to say, "Thanks, but I'll pass," when enticed into doing things that are senseless, dangerous, illegal or immoral. It takes character to go it alone rather than follow the crowd, to listen to your conscience and act in your own best interests—but it pays off big time, especially when you see the price others pay for going astray.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 31 and live in the Midwest. I have had the same friends since college and feel myself drifting farther and farther away from them. I feel guilty saying this, but all they want to talk about is their children. I have a wonderful 3-year-old daughter and another child on the way, but I have my own personality, too, apart from being a mother.

When I talk to these friends I'm pretty sure they don't listen or want to respond to me unless I'm talking about "kid stuff." Hanging out with them has become duller than watching paint dry. Am I the strange one because I don't want to talk about my little ones all the time?

FEELS LIKE A FREAK IN IOWA

DEAR FEELS LIKE A FREAK: Right now, your friends are preoccupied with raising their children, with all of the milestones and cute things they do that go along with it. Eventually, they'll pull out of it. Please don't label them or yourself. What you need to do is recognize that it's time to widen your circle to include more people who share your varied interests.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am getting ready to meet my gentleman's ex-wife. They were married for 17 years. His adult children all know and like me.

Any suggestions on breaking the ice and points of conversation with this woman?

LOIS IN LOUISIANA

DEAR LOIS: Only this: Keep your sense of humor when you discuss what you have in common.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married three years. We married later in life. I was divorced, and she had been a widow for eight years.

The problem we're having is she continues to want to spend the holidays with her deceased husband's family. They are nice people, but I feel uncomfortable with it. We have talked about starting our own traditions, but she insists that she doesn't want to cut those ties. I feel like I am living with a ghost sometimes.

I have spoken to other members of her family. They have agreed that she needs to cut those ties, but my wife is being stubborn about changing her holiday routine. Your thoughts on this, please?

LIVING WITH A GHOST IN KANSAS

DEAR LIVING WITH A GHOST: I don't know how long your wife was married before she was widowed, but it is possible that it was so long that she became a part of her in-laws' family, and you should not take that away from her. The solution to your problem lies in compromise. Not every holiday should be spent with them—but that doesn't mean the two of you couldn't alternate. And that's what I recommend you do until you establish different traditions.

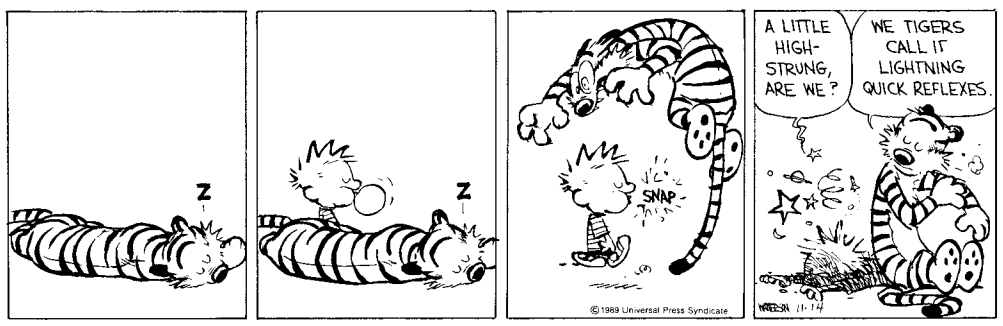
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



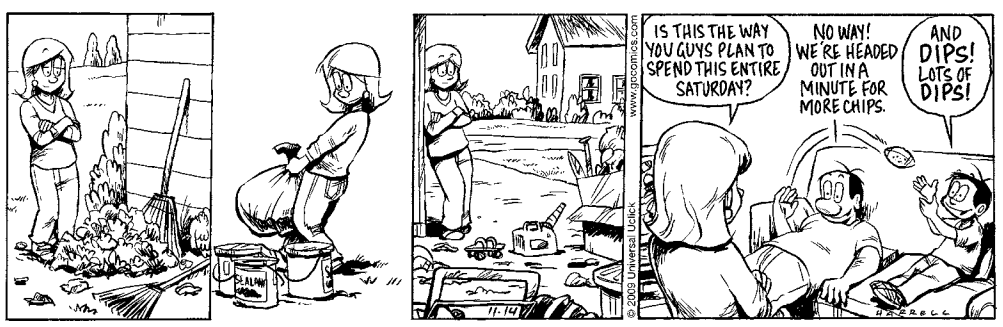
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THERE ARE THINGS I NEVER REALIZED ABOUT BEING A BOYFRIEND
I HAVE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITIES NOW...
I HAVE TO SHAVE ON WEEKENDS!
NO ONE EVER SAID LOVE WAS EASY
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

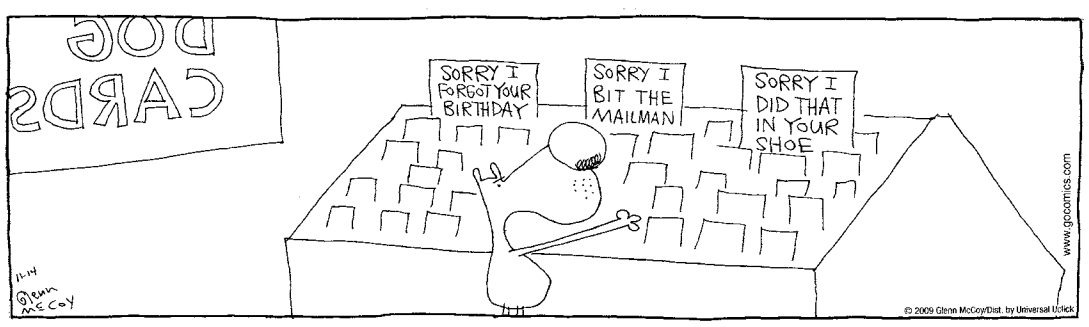
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IS THIS THE WAY YOU GUYS PLAN TO SPEND THIS ENTIRE SATURDAY?
NO WAY! WE'RE HEADED OUT IN A MINUTE FOR MORE CHIPS.
AND DIPS! LOTS OF DIPS!
© 2009 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

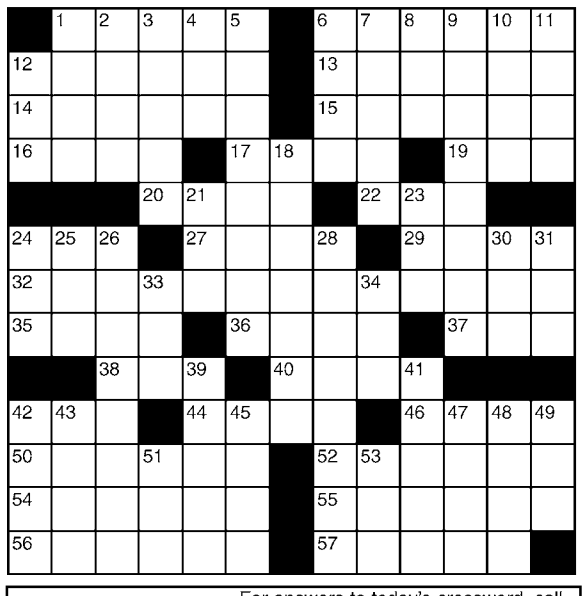
ACROSS
1 Concise
6 Leads the way
12 Tea party hostess, at times
13 Chip in a chip
14 In the previous month
15 Cafe
16 Durante trademark
17 Survive
19 Raise a stink?
20 Veg out
22 — Lanka
24 Support system?
27 Sailor's floor
29 Needle case
32 "Charade" star
35 Eastern bigwig
36 Antitoxins
37 Sermon subject
38 Id counterpart
40 Rolling stone's lack?
42 Scull tool
44 Reasons
46 Big name in construction?
50 "Bonanza" star
52 Brought out
54 Connected
55 Snacked (on)
56 Diner
57 Group character

DOWN
1 Helpless?
2 Island housing
3 Bay window
4 Sleep phenom
5 Cable cars
6 Ties up the phone
7 Apartments, e.g.
8 "Monty Python" opener
9 Erosion result
10 Modern coin
11 Location
12 Play on words
18 Medieval pseudoscience
21 Praise in verse
23 CSA soldier
24 Ovine comment
25 Bad hairpiece
26 Follower
28 Lamp fuel
30 Swiss canton
31 Hostel
33 Scott Joplin's style
34 — de deux
39 Title holder
41 Gloppy snow
42 Leer at
43 Met melody
45 Actress Lamarr
47 Reverberate
48 The Bee —
49 Peculiar
51 — out a living
53 Speck

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	B	A	■	R	E	E	F	■	B	A	S	S
R	U	N	■	H	E	R	E	■	O	P	A	L
I	N	T	H	E	R	E	D	■	R	E	L	Y
A	S	S	■	S	I	■	O	R	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	D	U	E	■	R	E	D	H	O	T
U	R	G	E	S	■	T	A	X	■	U	R	I
T	E	A	S	■	B	U	S	■	G	L	A	D
A	N	I	■	F	A	X	■	F	U	L	L	Y
H	O	T	D	O	G	■	A	L	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	U	G	H	■	R	E	V	E	R	E
B	L	O	C	■	D	O	G	E	A	R	E	D
I	O	W	A	■	A	B	U	T	■	G	I	G
D	U	E	T	■	D	I	E	S	■	O	N	E

Yesterday's answer 11-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Travis Barker, 34; Laura San Giacomo, 47; Yanni, 55; Prince Charles, 61

Happy Birthday: It's time to make some decisions that will take you in a new direction. Making a residential move or renovating the place you live will help you come to a conclusion regarding a problem you've faced for some time. Don't hesitate now when action is required on your part in order to turn things around. Your numbers are 8, 15, 18, 24, 32, 37, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Financial change is apparent due to the resolution of a pending investment or settlement. A proposition will grab your attention and, if handled properly, can lead to a moneymaking venture. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You must protect your position and your ideas and follow every detail through to the end. If you let someone else take charge, you will fall behind and lose out on a great opportunity. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may find yourself in a power struggle that is debilitating. Protect your physical, mental and financial status. You cannot let anyone get the upper hand. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Have more faith in who you are and what you are capable of doing. Your skills are worth far more than you realize. Follow a dream or pursue an activity or hobby that intrigues you. You will have an impact on the people you meet. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll feel down if you spend time at home or interacting with relatives or roommates. A community event or a challenging activity will ease your stress and help you deal with personal matters more effectively. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll get greater understanding from someone who finally gets what you are trying to do. A past connection will come to mind and can work into your plans in the future. Put together a team of people you feel confident can contribute to your goals. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A chance to make a positive change is apparent if you get in touch with someone from your past who is working in a field you are pursuing. Get your resume up to date and prepare to make some phone calls or send e-mails that will contribute to your future success. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't start a fight with someone over something that doesn't really matter. Observe what's going on and store up information to use as ammunition at a later date. Choose your battles wisely. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Being straight with others will be what counts if you want to make progress. Don't jump into something that's offered too quickly. Don't put your money into other people's ventures when it's your own you should be investing in. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Network, socialize and have fun. If you show your playful side, you'll attract interesting attention. You will come across someone with plans similar to yours. Collaborate and you will save time and find a way to work alongside one another. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The people around you may be confusing or misleading. Talk honestly about the way you feel and what you want to do and someone will help you reach your goals. Don't become a follower when you should be a leader. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Good fortune is apparent. Consider what's being offered and prepare to take advantage. You can reconnect with someone from your past if you make the first move. Find a way to make personal improvements that will lead to more confidence and greater self-esteem. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive and emotional. You have an original way of seeing things and dealing with situations. You are unique and creative.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							3	
		2	5			8		1
	5			3	9		4	
	8					5		
		1				2		
		9					8	
	2		7	4			6	
9		5			1	7		
	3							

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/14

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	2	8	4	9	3	7	5
9	3	4	7	2	5	8	1	6
5	8	7	1	3	6	2	9	4
3	7	9	5	1	8	6	4	2
6	4	1	2	7	3	5	8	9
8	2	5	9	6	4	1	3	7
2	9	6	3	8	7	4	5	1
4	5	3	6	9	1	7	2	8
7	1	8	4	5	2	9	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/13

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RENEWABLE MARINE ENERGY **Solution: 10 letters**

L	L	O	W	A	S	N	A	D	E	(D)	T	S	N	N
H	A	E	C	L	E	E	E	C	(A)	R	D	F	O	A
U	D	M	O	E	S	B	N	(T)	Q	N	A	I	I	L
B	I	O	R	R	A	E	(A)	L	U	H	T	N	T	P
S	T	G	E	E	I	N	A	F	A	A	G	O	O	S
O	T	D	S	C	H	B	U	C	T	R	N	I	M	E
L	N	N	S	L	O	T	L	S	I	N	R	T	L	C
U	L	M	E	L	U	E	E	D	C	E	E	A	N	N
T	A	E	G	R	A	C	R	E	P	S	D	V	A	E
I	N	T	E	N	R	I	R	O	T	S	O	O	T	R
O	O	S	S	U	V	U	R	E	H	A	M	N	U	E
N	S	Y	O	E	S	T	C	T	W	S	M	N	R	F
S	A	S	R	A	B	S	O	R	B	O	F	I	A	N
D	E	V	E	L	O	P	M	E	N	T	P	F	L	O
R	S	M	O	V	E	M	E	N	T	T	S	A	O	C

© 2009 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 11/14

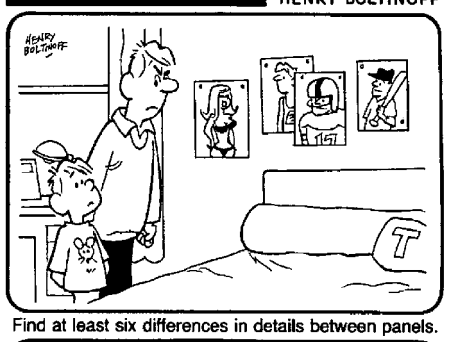
Absorb, Aquatic, Clean, Climate, Coast, Conferences, Currents, Data, Development, Funds, Future, Global, Green, Grid, Harness, Hubs, Innovation, Measure, Modern, Motion, Movement, Natural, Ocean, Offshore, Plan, Power, Report, Resources, River, Science, Seabed, Seasonal, Solutions, Station, System, Thermal, Tidal, Tools, Trials, Undersea

Yesterday's Answer: Creative

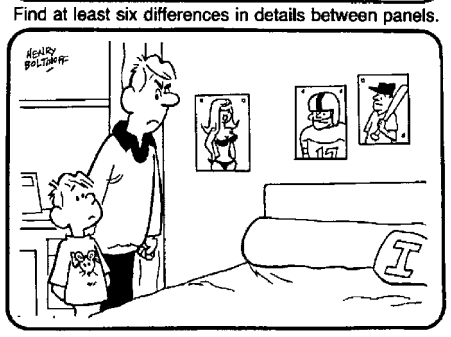
Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Differences: 1. Letter on pillow is different. 2. Man's shirt is black. 3. Mouse design is different. 4. Lamp is missing. 5. Picture on wall is missing. 6. Curtain is longer.

Wishing Well®

5	7	3	2	6	8	5	7	4	6	8	7	2
S	N	C	J	L	S	U	O	B	O	M	M	O
5	3	6	8	3	5	4	3	7	8	7	6	8
C	H	V	O	A	C	E	L	O	O	R	E	T
5	7	5	7	6	4	6	4	2	7	2	8	2
E	E	S	M	E	V	X	E	Y	E	I	H	S
6	3	4	8	3	7	3	7	5	8	5	7	2
T	L	R	S	E	L	N	A	S	A	C	N	Y
8	7	2	6	5	7	8	4	6	3	6	5	6
I	C	O	E	L	H	L	S	N	G	D	O	E
4	5	4	6	8	3	8	4	2	3	8	3	7
A	S	T	D	I	E	N	I	U	S	G	A	O
5	4	3	2	5	3	7	3	5	3	2	4	7
E	L	H	R	B	E	L	A	Y	D	S	E	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Super Crossword

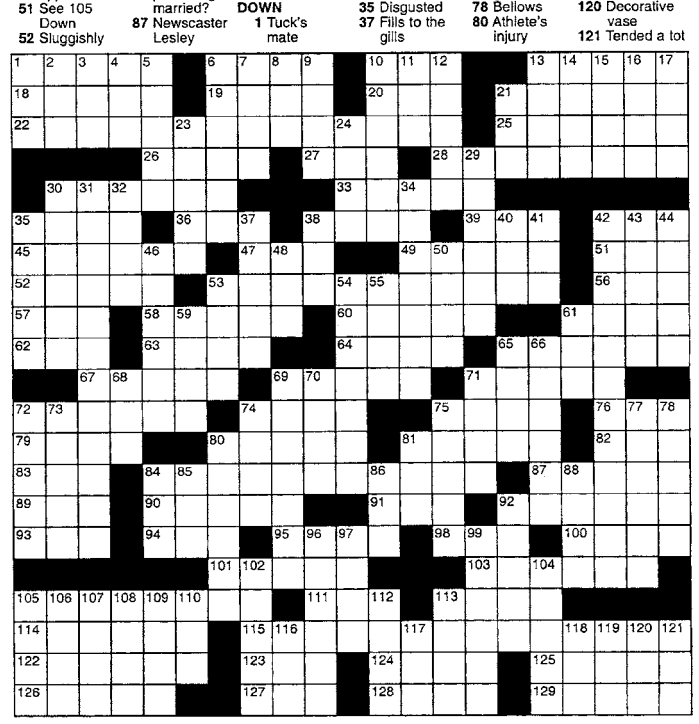
SOUNDS RIGHT

ACROSS

1 Williamson of "Excalibur"
6 The — Brothers
10 Urban transport
13 Get the lead out
18 Harden
19 Stallion's son
20 "Agnus —"
21 Mason's tool
22 Cat-show judge?
25 Puts aside
26 Carpenter's item
27 Cavity
28 Model boat?
30 Degrades
33 Mongoose's enemy
35 Bungle
36 One of the Marches
38 "If I — you . . ."
39 White House grp.
42 Beret kin
45 Queen of mystery
47 Tell it like it isn't
49 Winter warmer-upper
51 See 105 Down
52 Sluggishly
53 Dislike of a relative?
56 Branch
57 Swiss canton
58 "— Dawn" ('73 song)
60 Moving man?
61 Strait-laced
62 71 Across feature
63 Support
64 Not quite adult
65 Kevin of "American Beauty"
67 Renown
69 Board game
71 Casals' instrument
72 Messenger
74 "Younger — Springtime" ('49 song)
75 Exceptional
76 Be a buttinsky
79 So be it
80 Wallace of "The Princess Bride"
81 Type of orange
82 Bray beginning
83 Lion's lair
84 A different place to get married?
87 Newscaster Lesley
89 Mythical monster
90 Danger
91 UK honor
92 Steven of "Exit Wounds"
93 Comic Louis
94 JFK info
95 Literary lioness
98 Edinburgh veto
100 Westover or Tamblyn
101 Emit
103 Indiana river
105 Wood-chopping mishap?
111 Married Mlle.
113 Identical
114 Use logic
115 Like a quick-fingered poker player?
122 Chased rainbows?
123 Competitor
124 "Dies —"
125 — cotta
126 Stratum
127 TV's "Too Close — Comfort"
128 Deserve
129 Occurrence

DOWN

1 Tuck's mate
2 Shiba — (Japanese dog)
3 Mongrel
4 Rink legend
5 Bowe blows
6 Charge
7 Reformer Lucretia
8 Lilly or Mintz
9 Command at a corner
10 Perry White, for one
11 Meyerbeer's "— Huguenots"
12 Lucknow lute
13 Art Deco name
14 Carrot or parsnip
15 Crooked
16 Trickle
17 In addition
21 "For shame!"
23 "Sleeping with the —" ('91 film)
24 Mediterranean port
29 Foul
30 Charm
31 Aggressiveness on Wall Street?
32 Genesis figure
34 Suits
35 Disgusted
37 Fills to the gills
38 Moisten
40 Letters of desperation?
41 Machine part
42 Kremlin tomb?
43 Hawk's home
44 One of the Yokums
46 "Swingin' School" singer
48 Claire or Balin
50 — impulse (suddenly)
53 Landed
54 Centipede's sensor
55 Departs
59 "My word!"
61 Chum
65 Medieval menial
66 Kindly
68 Pantry item
69 Atlas or Aznavour
70 Actress Goldie
71 Java joint
72 Wore
73 Abrasive substance
74 Bangkok native
75 Poe crow
77 Cover old ground
78 Bellows
80 Athlete's injury
81 Triangular sail
84 Mimic
85 Word with on or off
86 — degree (somewhat)
88 Skater Lipinski
92 Forms a dart
96 Trudge
97 Big rig
99 Come to
102 Employees
104 Ms. Midler
105 With 51 Across, central Asian lake
106 Lucy Lawless role
107 Shrewd
108 Land in the ocean
109 Action figure
110 Greene's "The — of the Affair"
112 Falco or Adams
113 Injury after-effect
116 Herd word
117 Significant years
118 Gun the engine
119 Nev. neighbor
120 Decorative vase
121 Tended a tot



© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

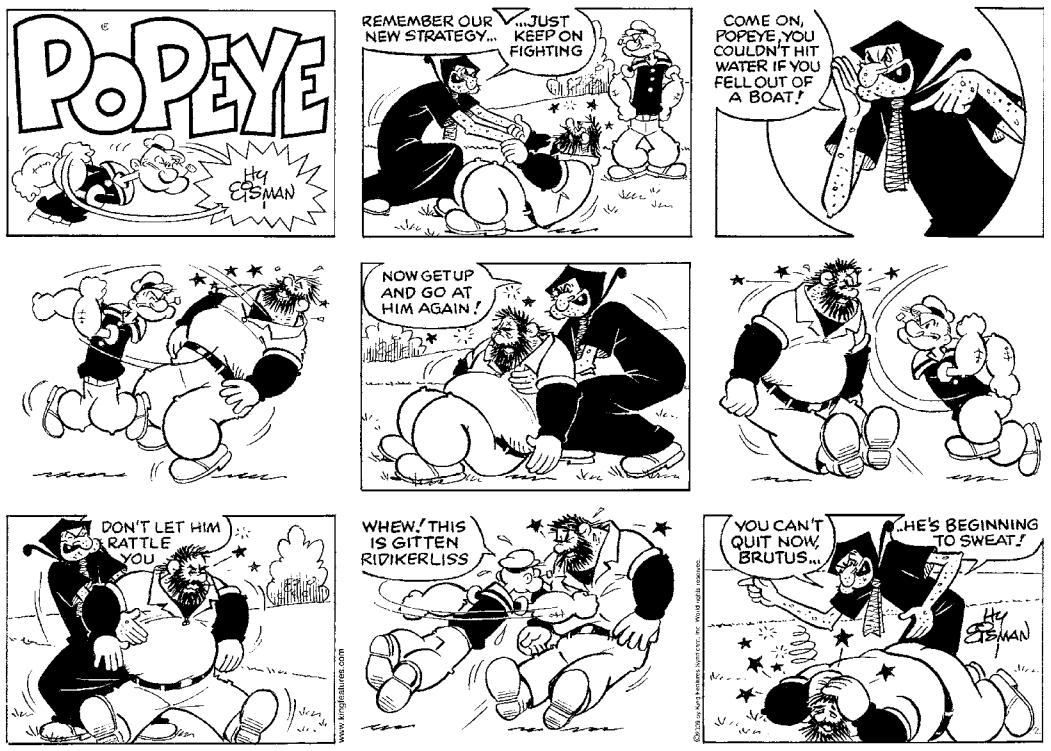
1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the only Central American country that doesn't have a coastline on the Pacific?
2. MOVIES: Who played the role of Boo Radley in the movie "To Kill a Mockingbird"?
3. MYTHOLOGY: In Norse mythology, what is the name of the goddess of the past?
4. SCIENCE: What is the only known metal that turns to liquid at room temperature?
5. TELEVISION: Which long-running variety show featured a fictitious radio station named KORN?
6. LANGUAGE: What is the American equivalent of the British term "braces"?
7. RELIGION: Who served as the first pope of the Catholic Church?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who was the founder of the online auction service eBay?
9. ENTERTAINERS: What actor uttered the movie line, "The point is, ladies and gentleman, that greed–for lack of a better word –is good"?
10. LITERATURE: What is the subject matter of the book "Ten Days That Shook the World"?

Answers

1. Belize
2. Robert Duvall
3. Urd
4. Mercury
5. "Hee Haw"
6. Suspenders
7. St. Peter
8. Pierre Omidyar
9. Michael Douglas ("Wall Street")
10. The Russian revolution

© 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
HEY, EISMAN
REMEMBER OUR NEW STRATEGY...
...JUST KEEP ON FIGHTING
COME ON, POPEYE, YOU COULDN'T HIT WATER IF YOU FELL OUT OF A BOAT!
NOW GET UP AND GO AT HIM AGAIN!
DON'T LET HIM RATTLE YOU
WHEW! THIS IS GITTEN RIDIKERLISS
YOU CAN'T QUIT NOW, BRUTUS...
...HE'S BEGINNING TO SWEAT!
HEY EISMAN
www.kingfeatures.com
© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

GEEZ OWEN, SCHOOL HAS JUST STARTED AND I'M ALREADY BURNT OUT.
I CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO DO THE SAME THING EVERY DAY. I NEED EXCITEMENT.
GERALD, YOU GET IN HERE YOUNG MAN!
ON SECOND THOUGHT, MONDAY CAN'T GET HERE SOON ENOUGH!

The Spats

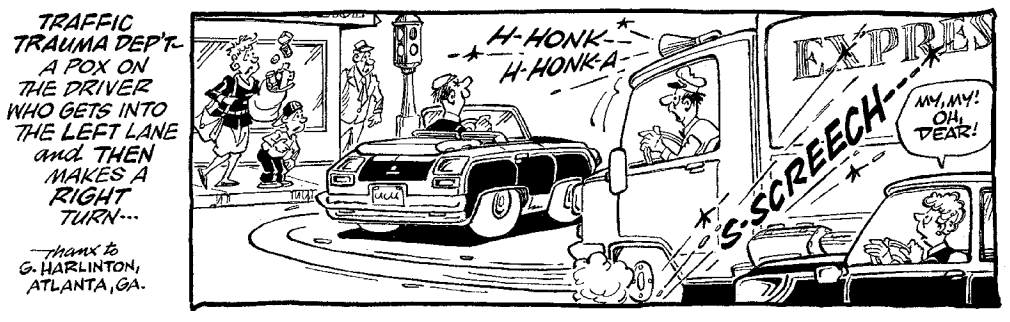
by Jeff Pickering

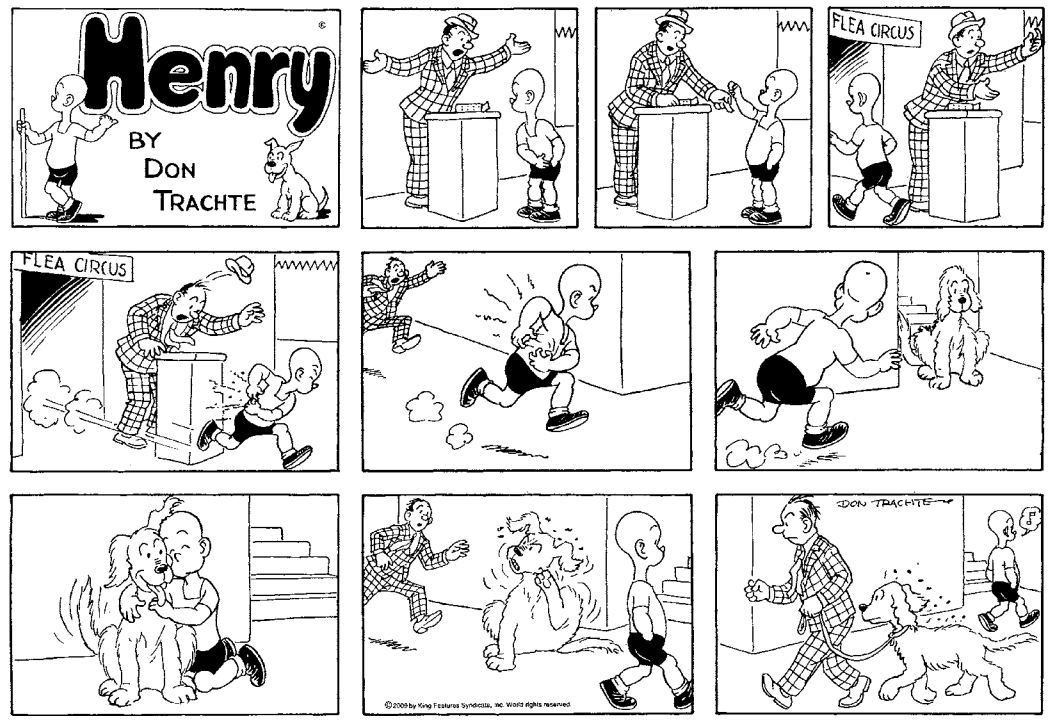
HOW'S YOUR NEW JOB AS A NIGHT WATCHMAN?
TERRIBLE... I JUST GOT FIRED
...SOMEBODY STOLE THREE NIGHTS!!
©2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto

SAY AGAIN—
HUH?
HEY, MOM.. THAT'S A REAL GOOFY HAIRDO.. IT MAKES YA LOOK AWFUL..
I'M SO-O-O LUCKY TO BE BALD..
Thanx to J. WEINTRAUB, NEW YORK, N.Y.
©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.


TRAFFIC TRAUMA DEP'T.
A POX ON THE DRIVER WHO GETS INTO THE LEFT LANE and THEN MAKES A RIGHT TURN...
Thanx to G. HARLINTON, ATLANTA, GA.
H-HONK— H-HONK-A
EXPRES
S-SCREECH—
MY, MY! OH, DEAR!



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Minsook Rastguiy
P.O. Box 7034 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 788-6000

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MINSOOK RASTGUIY AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF NEGAHR A. RASTGUIY	FCD GU Civil Action No. 09-0606
Minor Children, By: MINSOOK RASTGUIY, Petitioner.	NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Minsook Rastguiy, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 21st day of December, 2009 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Gloria and Casimio Cabrera
P.O. Box 502018
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 235-0883

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	FCD GU Civil Action No. 09-0636
MELTON C.J. AGULTO, Minor Child, By: MARLISA R. CABRERA, Petitioner.	NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 30, 2009 at 1:30p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Govendo.

Dated this 3rd day of November, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

WANTED TO RENT

Looking for a 3-4 bedroom concrete house for a single family with preferring in the areas of Garapan, Navy Hill, China Town or nearby. Please call Mr. Gu at 989-0336. Thank you.

JOB OPPORTUNITY $$$

"Get Paid To Go Shopping? Mystery shoppers do" – apply online at www.internationalservicecheck.com

WHATZIT Solution:
A friend in need is a friend indeed

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235- NEWS

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

NEPALED = DEPALED

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

On-Call Biometrics Technician

Northrop Grumman Technical Services USCIS Program Application Support Center is looking to fill a vacancy for an On-Call Biometrics Technician (SCA General Clerk 2). This position is located in **Saipan - Northern Marianas Islands (United States)**, in an office for the US Citizenship and Immigration Service. An On-Call Biometrics Technician will be responsible for performing biometrics processing to include, electronic photographs, electronic signatures, and press fingerprints. U.S. Citizenship required. Must be able to obtain DHS Security Clearance and pass credit and drug screens.

SALARY: **$11.28** per hour plus a Health & Welfare benefit.

Send resume to **Freddie.Sudheimer@ngc.com**

To apply online and view all current opportunities, please visit our website:

careers.northropgrumman.com

Please reference job id number **TS/093018.**

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

© 2009 Northrop Grumman Corporation. Northrop Grumman is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to hiring and retaining a diverse workforce. U.S. Citizenship is required for most positions.

James leads Cavs past Heat, 111-104

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James had little to say Thursday about the prospect of playing with Dwyane Wade next season, and that was fine. Having them on the same court was enough of a treat for now.

The two All-Stars put on a show in their first showdown of the season, and James scored 34 points to help the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Miami Heat 111-104.

Wade scored 36 points but couldn't rally the Heat from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Mo Williams made five 3-pointers and scored 25 points for the Cavs, while Shaquille O'Neal added 14 in a return to his former home court. J.J. Hickson, making his third consecutive start, had a career-high 18 points.

But in the end, it was James leading the way. He scored Cleveland's final eight points over the last 2:42. He finished with seven assists and went 16 for 18 from the free-throw line.

The Cavs' point total was a season high. They won in Florida for the second time in as many nights after beating Orlando on Wednesday.

Michael Beasley scored 24 points for the Heat, who lost for only the second time.

James and Wade shared a long embrace just before tipoff, and they joked during a timeout near the end of the first half. They can opt out of their contracts next year, and on Wednesday, Wade said the pair have talked about going to the same team.

James then said he won't discuss free agency with reporters any more until the end of the season. For now, at least, the two good friends entertain as opponents.

Wade made a 3-pointer, blocked a shot and sank another shot to cut the margin to 103-99 with three minutes left, but the Heat got no closer. James answered with a 3-pointer, then made five free throws to make it 111-102 with 57 seconds to go as the arena quickly emptied.

Wade made the first highlight-footage contribution with a driving dunk over 6-foot-11 Anderson Varejao. They drew a double technical moments later for a heated exchange.

Wade sank a 3-pointer over James with 4 seconds left in the first quarter. James then hit a running 22-footer at the buzzer to put the Cavs up 35-33.

James missed his first five shots but still scored 15 points in the quarter.

Williams made seven consecutive shots during one stretch, and his 3-pointers helped the Cavs take a 92-84 lead into the final period.

Lakers 121, Suns 102

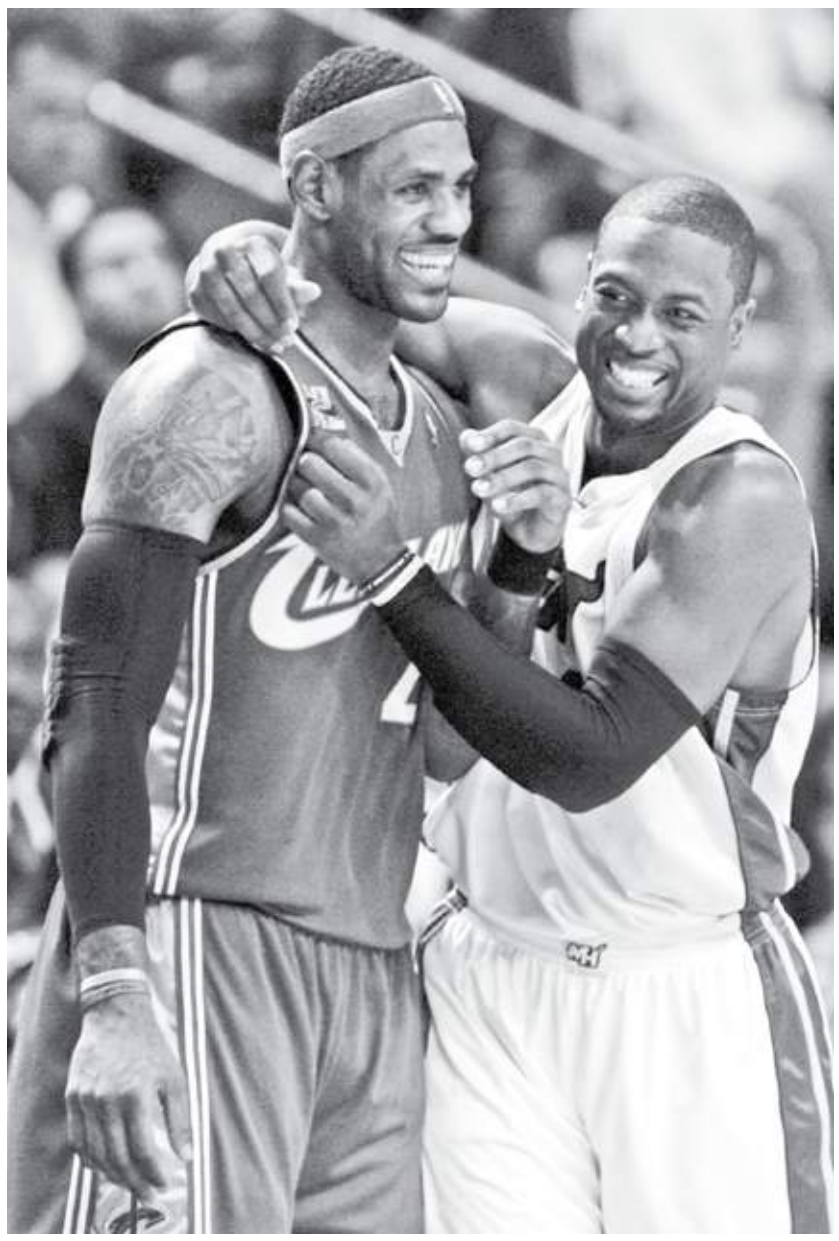
At Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Lakers ran all over the NBA's speediest team.

Kobe Bryant scored 29 points, Andrew Bynum had 26 points and 15 rebounds in his return from injury, and the Lakers put the brakes on the Phoenix Suns' fast start with a lopsided victory.

Josh Powell scored 14 points for the defending champions, who won their sixth straight and improved to 7-1 by handing the Suns their second loss of the season.

Los Angeles snapped the Suns' four-game winning streak by countering Phoenix's up-tempo style with defense and the Lakers' own transition game, handily winning an entertaining November matchup between two of the NBA's most impressive teams so far.

Steve Nash had 13 points and five assists for the Suns, who had their worst shooting night of the season. The two-time MVP sat out the final 15 1/2 minutes after getting little help from his teammates.



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, left, jokes with Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade in the second quarter during an NBA basketball game in Miami, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009.

Amare Stoudemire endured a 2-for-15 shooting night, while Grant Hill managed just nine points. Jason Richardson missed all five of his 3-point attempts while scoring only five points for the NBA's highest-scoring team, although the reserves had 21 in the final 5:45 to help Phoenix reach 100 for the 10th time this season.

Jared Dudley led the Suns with 14 points, but they failed to match the 1980-81 club's franchise-best 9-1 start. The Suns made just 36.5 percent of their shots (38 for 104) after never going lower than 45.5 percent this season.

Bynum looked sharp in his return to the Lakers' starting lineup after a two-game absence with a strained right elbow. Los Angeles still is without Pau Gasol, who won't make the trip to Denver for Friday's rematch of the Western Conference finals while rehabilitating his strained hamstring.

In the first half, Los Angeles frequently played at something approaching the Suns' favored breakneck tempo, and the Lakers were better at it than Phoenix. After Bryant's 12 first-quarter points put the Lakers ahead early, Los Angeles scored the final eight points of the first half to take a 59-45 lead.

Phoenix had just five assists on its 17 first-half field goals—nine fewer baskets than the Lakers—with combined 3-for-19 shooting by Richardson and Stoudemire.

The Suns' lack of sync showed in a quick stretch of the third quarter, when Nash threw a pass into the stands moments before Odom hit Bryant with a quarter-court alley-oop pass for a behind-the-head dunk, putting the Lakers up 80-55.

Shannon Brown punctuated the win with consecutive high-flying dunks in the lane midway through the fourth quarter, putting Los Angeles up by 26.

Hornets fire coach Scott, GM to take over

WESTWEGO, Louisiana (AP)—The New Orleans Hornets fired Byron Scott only nine games into the season on Thursday and replaced him with general manager Jeff Bower, hoping the man who put the current roster together can get more out of it on the court.

"I told Jeff, 'The genie's out of the bottle,'" Hornets chief operating officer Hugh Weber said. "Nobody can say he doesn't have the right players. ... Jeff has hand-selected this team, and we like the idea that now he'll be held accountable for the results.

"Our expectations are high. Our sense of urgency is high. Our patience is low and we hope that translates into results quickly."

Scott, who only two seasons ago was the NBA coach of the year, was fired one day after a 124-104 loss to Phoenix dropped New Orleans' record to 3-6.

Bower, who also will remain general manager, immediately moved to name Tim Floyd his top assistant. Floyd, a former Hornets head coach, had more recently coached at the University of Southern California. He resigned last June amid allegations he paid to have O.J. Mayo play for USC.

Bower was Floyd's assistant coach with the Hornets during the 2003-04 season, and the two are still friends.

"I have a high comfort level with Tim, who has proven himself to be a quality coach, who has proven himself to have some very specific areas that he's outstanding in," Bower said.

The Hornets were 41-41 in Floyd's only season, losing to the Miami Heat inthe first round of the playoffs.

The only player left on the Hornets roster from that season is David West, a rookie back then who has since become an All-Star. West said he respected Scott but understood the rationale behind making a change.

"The good thing is we're 3-6, so getting back to .500 and getting going in the right direction isn't something that's out of the realm of possibility," West said. "With Jeff coming in, bringing in Tim, for guys who've only played for coach Scott, it will be a dramatic difference.

"We've got to be receptive to what this brings because what we had wasn't working," West said. "Hopefully we can get some different results."

Scott was in the final year of a two-year extension worth about $5 million a year. The Hornets hired him hoping he could repeat what he did in New Jersey, when he twice took the Nets to the NBA finals. He wound up 203-216 in a little more than five seasons with the Hornets.

Warriors' Jackson decries being 'bad guy'

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Jackson dropped onto a bench next to Warriors teammate Acie Law and pulled out his cell phone, checking to see if anybody had left a message during practice.

Maybe someone granting his wish to be traded.

No such luck. The disgruntled swingman was left in limbo for another day.

"A lot of people ask me the same questions about the trade and stuff," said Jackson, who asked to be dealt in August and whose relationship with Golden State has become strained. "It gets redundant to me, but I deal with it."

Warriors coach Don Nelson said the team has been trying to unload Jackson, but it hasn't been easy finding a trade partner. The forward has a troubled history, and the three-year, $28 million extension that he signed last November could cause problems for teams trying to clear salary cap space for next year's bumper crop of free agents.

It's made for an uncomfortable situation in the Golden State locker room, where teammates have said their fragile chemistry can't withstand Jackson's polarizing presence.

"People want to pan me out to be the bad guy," Jackson told The Associated Press. "People want me to be somebody to point the finger at and say, 'He ain't doing this, or he's not humble, or he's not doing this.' I just want to win.

"A lot of people think just because you play basketball, you make a lot of money, you just bite your tongue and be the bigger person. That's not me," he added. "I've been this way since I got in the league and before I got in the league, all my life, so there's no reason for me to change now, for money or for any other reason."

Jackson has caused trouble for teams in the past, including that 30-game suspension while with Indiana for his role in the infamous brawl in Detroit, where Ron Artest went into the stands. He also served a suspension shortly after being traded to Golden State because of some legal problems.

Things seemed to get better with the Warriors, though, as Jackson helped a losing franchise end a 13-year postseason drought in 2007. Golden State barely missed the playoffs the following year, winning 48 games—the most by a non-playoff NBA team in a quarter-century.

Jackson was even named captain before last season, although everything began to unravel shortly afterward. The Warriors trudged to a 29-53 finish, and Jackson had surgery in March to remove bone spurs that had caused him problems for several years.

Then came his trade demand, a sideline blowup with Nelson during an exhibition game that cost Jackson a two-game suspension and approximately $139,000 in salary, and a meeting with general manager Larry Riley in which he relinquished his captain title.

"The off-the-court stuff doesn't affect basketball. It shouldn't," Jackson said. "There's nobody talking about contracts and stuff on the court, so it shouldn't affect the game."

The Warriors (2-5) have shown flashes of brilliance, like a 146-105 drubbing of Minnesota on Monday night, but have struggled to find consistency as they integrate a plethora of youngsters with Jackson and a handful of veterans.

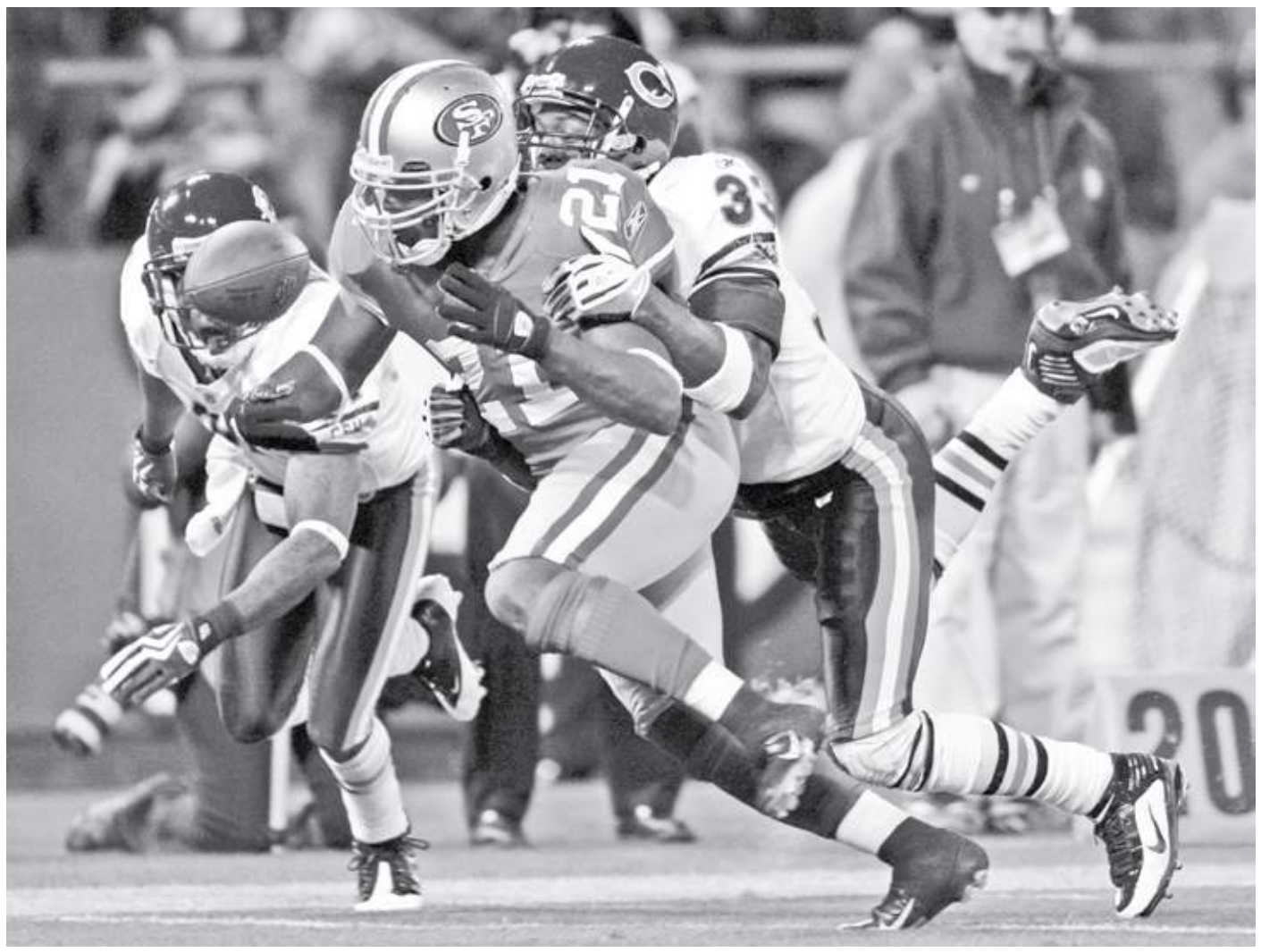
Nelson pointed to team chemistry as a major issue, and acknowledged that Jackson's situation "probably" has something to do with it.

"If you ever want to be any good, you have to have good chemistry," Nelson said. "The coach can help, if the players are willing."

Jackson's agent, Mark Stevens, criticized Nelson's coaching ability earlier this week and said he's pushing for a trade. Until that happens, the player formerly known as "Captain Jack" is at the center of what appears to be a one-man mutiny.

"It's a lot of things that have snowballed, but you can't make excuses," Jackson said. "You can't bring the outside stuff to the court, because that's where you're free from all of it. I know me, personally, none of the outside stuff ever affects my game."

Gore, 49ers beat Bears 10-6, ending 4-game skid



AP

San Francisco 49ers running back Frank Gore (21) fumbles as he is tackled by Chicago Bears cornerback Charles Tillman (33) in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in San Francisco, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Mike Singletary didn't exactly hand it to his old team. That didn't matter—Jay Cutler handed the desperate San Francisco 49ers a much-needed win.

Frank Gore ran for 104 yards and a touchdown, Cutler threw a career-high five interceptions with his last coming in the end zone on the game's final play and San Francisco snapped a four-game losing streak by beating the Chicago Bears 10-6 on Thursday night.

Niners quarterback Alex Smith won for the first time in eight starts since Week 2 in 2007, 17-16 against St. Louis—but it was interesting until the end.

Cutler showed up for his postgame news conference still dressed in his uniform, minus his pads and jersey and quickly apologized.

"It was tough. I have to apologize to the defense," Cutler said. "I think the offense as a whole has to apologize. They played a great game and kept us in there even through all the turnovers."

After Singletary elected to punt against his former team on fourth-and-6 from the Chicago 34 with 2:53 left, Cutler drove the Bears to the San Francisco 12 with 13 seconds remaining. After an incompletion on first down, Michael Lewis picked off Cutler's next attempt in the end zone as time expired. That sealed San Francisco's first win since a 35-0 rout of the Rams back on Oct. 4.

The game was far from a pretty display by two struggling teams still hoping to make the playoffs.

Four days after the 49ers (4-5) committed four turnovers that led to 24 points in a 34-27 loss to Tennessee Titans, they were penalized nine times and Smith threw an interception and was sacked twice. San Francisco did just enough right to win.

Cutler took chances away all game from Chicago (4-5), which had 10 penalties and lost its second straight and fourth in five. Patrick Willis wreaked havoc on the Bears with 11 tackles, one of few bright spots for the 49ers.

"It's nice to be on the other sideline of that, that's for sure," Smith said.

The five interceptions by Cutler are tied for the most by a Bears quarterback since Zeke Bratkowski threw seven in a 42-7 loss to Baltimore on Oct. 2, 1960.

Cutler threw four or more interceptions for the second time this season and has an NFL-worst 17 in all. He became the first Bears quarterback since Billy Wade in 1962 to have two four-interception games in a season.

"I've played Thursday games before and been successful," Cutler said. "It didn't affect us. We saw everything coming. They didn't have any surprises for us. We just didn't execute."

The Bears got field goals of 50 and 38 yards from Robbie Gould in a game that quickly became about who could keep possession of the ball and make the fewest mistakes.

It marked the first time Singletary faced his former team as a head coach. The Hall of Fame linebacker spent all 12 of his NFL seasons with the Bears, capturing two Defensive Player of the Year awards, being selected to 10 Pro Bowls and winning the Super Bowl following 1985 season.

Singletary wanted little to do with the hype of him facing the Bears, insisting he couldn't think about anything but coaching the 49ers to victory to save the season.

"They're just another team on the schedule," Singletary said afterward.

San Francisco won its seventh straight home game against the Bears, including one in the playoffs. Chicago's last victory at Candlestick Park came during the Bears' '85 Super Bowl season with Singletary leading the defense. The Bears had won the last three in the series.

Gore ran for a 14-yard touchdown run one play after Cutler's second interception late in the second quarter as the Niners took a 7-3 halftime lead.

"Everybody has a bad day at work, that's just it," Bears defensive end Alex Brown said of Cutler. "We have to be there to have his back and we do."

Joe Nedney added a 21-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter after missing a 39-yarder wide right on San Francisco's opening drive - his first miss of the season from inside 40 yards.

Neither quarterback had impressive numbers. Smith was 16 of 23 for 118 yards and Cutler 29 of 52 for 307. Chicago outgained San Francisco 350-216.

Niners tight end Vernon Davis fired up the Bears with his trash talk Tuesday, saying: "I think we can destroy their front." Davis and Bears defensive lineman Adewale Ogunleye got into a pregame jawing session and some of the Chicago captains intentionally avoided shaking Davis' hand before the coin toss.

Davis dealt out his own punishment when he bowled over Bears linebacker Nick Roach, sending him to the sideline briefly on his only catch of the half. Davis committed two false start penalties.

"It was a big relief," Davis said. "It's truly a blessing to be able to get this. We just have to keep winning."

San Francisco punted with 2:53 left to give the Bears a final chance.

The Bears lost tight end Desmond Clark to a neck injury and cornerback Zackary Bowman to an abdominal injury. Niners linebacker Takeo Spikes left the game in the second quarter with a strained left hamstring and didn't return.

Tiger takes the lead in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Tiger Woods opened with two birdies, saved his round with two pars and wound up with a 4-under 68 on Friday to build a three-shot lead going into the weekend of the Australian Masters.

It was the fourth straight tournament in which Woods has had the 36-hole lead, although his only victory during that stretch came at the BMW Championship outside Chicago in September. He lost the last two times, including last week in Shanghai at the HSBC Champions.

Woods was at 10-under 134, three shots clear of an American—Jason Dufner—and a pair of Australians in Greg Chalmers and James Nitties, both of whom dropped shots on the 17th hole that cost them a spot in the final group Saturday with Woods.

Before another enthusiastic crowd that topped 24,000 people who endured hot sunshine and dust from so much traffic along sandy paths at Kingston Heath, Woods quickly regained the lead from Dufner, who shot his 67 in the morning to finish at 7-under 137.

Woods putted up the slope onto the green for a 3-foot birdie on the par-5 first, then changed clubs three times in the shifting wind before stuffing his approach to 2 feet on the second.

Woods lost his swing late in the round, twice slamming his driver into the ground as one shot sailed to the left and another to the right, and he also missed birdie putts of 10 feet on the 15th and 6 feet on the 16th that could have expanded his lead.

What saved him were two pars.

He chipped 15 feet past the flag on the ninth and made the putt coming back, then escaped more trouble on the par-5 14th, which played into the wind. Woods reached the green with a 3-iron on Thursday. This time, he had to hook a 3-wood around a gum tree on the left side of the fairway, and it clipped a branch and tumbled into a bunker, leaving him a 60-yard shot.

He did well to get onto the green, left his 40-foot birdie putt some 10 feet short, and made that for par.

"I didn't do anything great," Woods said. "But I had two big par putts to keep the round going."

Nitties played behind Woods and his mammoth galleries for the second straight day and did well to keep pace until dropping a shot on the 17th. He wound up with a 71.

That left Chalmers alone in second, until he got a bad break on the 17th. There was a large tuft of grass behind his ball in the right rough, keeping him from hitting through the ball and toward the green. Instead, he tried to play a 40-yard hook to give himself a full, predictable swing, missed the green and chipped poorly to make bogey.

"I was a little disappointed with the bogey at 17 for one reason: I knew," Chalmers said about the possibilty of being paired with Tiger. "To play with him at any time is always a pleasure. It would have been nice in Australia to have a game with Tiger."

Instead, it will be an All-American final group for the second week in a row outside the United States. Last week, it was Woods and Nick Watney in China.

Dufner, playing before a decent-sized crowd in the group with Adam Scott, reached 9 under in the easier morning conditions until playing his last five holes in 2 over.

Dufner has been Down Under while playing Nationwide Tour events. Now, the American is on a tour of this part of the world, having qualified for the World Golf Championship in China, and heading to the Dunlop Phoenix in Japan.

The idea was to knock some rust off. There didn't appear to be too much at Kingston Heath.

"I could have stayed at home and played in the States, but that's kind of the same old thing," Dufner said. "I play enough events over there. I thought it would be a good choice to come over here and kind of broaden my golf experience, and it happens to be a real good event now that Tiger is playing."

Even better is being in the final group with him.

Chalmers hasn't won in Australia in a decade, part of that because he's had to play so much on the PGA Tour—or in Q-school—to keep his card in the United States. He wrapped that up early this year—Chalmers is No. 86 on the money list—and told his caddie this summer how much he'd love to win at home.

And he still feels he has a good chance, although Chalmers knows he'll have to play solid golf. He was asked if he thought he could still win, even with the world's No. 1 player holding a three-shot lead.

"As a professional, you have to believe," Chalmers said. "Otherwise, you might as well throw the sticks in the bin. At the same time, it's a tall order. No one know how to win better from 36 holes."

Manny Villegas, the younger brother of Camilo Villegas, had a 68 and joined Mathew Goggin in the group at 6-under 138. Stuart Appleby, who lost his PGA Tour card this year for the first time since his rookie season some 15 years ago, had a 70 and was another shot back.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	8	1	.889	—
Philadelphia	4	4	.500	3 1/2
Toronto	4	4	.500	3 1/2
New York	1	8	.111	7
New Jersey	0	8	.000	7 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	6	2	.750	—
Miami	6	2	.750	—
Orlando	6	3	.667	1/2
Charlotte	3	5	.375	3
Washington	2	6	.250	4

Central Division

Cleveland	6	3	.667	—
Milwaukee	4	2	.667	1/2
Chicago	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Detroit	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Indiana	3	3	.500	1 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	5	3	.625	—
Houston	5	3	.625	—
San Antonio	4	3	.571	1/2
New Orleans	3	6	.333	2 1/2
Memphis	1	8	.111	4 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	6	3	.667	—
Portland	6	3	.667	—
Oklahoma City	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Utah	3	5	.375	2 1/2
Minnesota	1	8	.111	5

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	7	1	.875	—
Phoenix	8	2	.800	—
Sacramento	4	4	.500	3
L.A. Clippers	3	6	.333	4 1/2
Golden State	2	5	.286	4 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Cleveland 111, Miami 104
L.A. Lakers 121, Phoenix 102

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	2	0	.750	225	115
N.Y. Jets	4	4	0	.500	177	134
Miami	3	5	0	.375	193	204
Buffalo	3	5	0	.375	123	169

South

Indianapolis	8	0	0	1.000	217	108
Houston	5	4	0	.556	215	188
Jacksonville	4	4	0	.500	157	198
Tennessee	2	6	0	.250	148	238

North

Cincinnati	6	2	0	.750	180	135
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	195	139
Baltimore	4	4	0	.500	206	154
Cleveland	1	7	0	.125	78	209

West

Denver	6	2	0	.750	150	124
San Diego	5	3	0	.625	206	179
Oakland	2	6	0	.250	78	201
Kansas City	1	7	0	.125	126	205

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	6	2	0	.750	217	152
Philadelphia	5	3	0	.625	219	153
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556	232	204
Washington	2	6	0	.250	113	154

South

New Orleans	8	0	0	1.000	303	174
Atlanta	5	3	0	.625	202	166
Carolina	3	5	0	.375	148	196
Tampa Bay	1	7	0	.125	134	231

North

Minnesota	7	1	0	.875	244	174
Green Bay	4	4	0	.500	215	172
Chicago	4	5	0	.444	186	201
Detroit	1	7	0	.125	133	237

West

Arizona	5	3	0	.625	198	164
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444	184	180
Seattle	3	5	0	.375	167	167
St. Louis	1	7	0	.125	77	221

Yesterday's Game
San Francisco 10, Chicago 6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PACQUIAO

From Page 28

said Cotto.

"We have a game plan for this fight and it's going to be a great night for boxing, especially for Latinos and Puerto Ricans."

Pacquiao, as usual, was a model of humility during the conference.

"I respect Miguel Cotto and his team," Pacquiao said. "They're nice guys and they're friendly. On Saturday, may the best man win." ***(PDI)***

Saipan nears sweep of KOD preliminary round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The grand finale of the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament started yesterday with Saipan sweeping its first two games in the round-robin preliminaries at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Saipan, which is represented by SaiPal in the four-island tournament, played in the second game and edged Pohnpei, 13-10. Saipan had back-to-back matches yesterday, as it also saw action in Game 3 and defeated Palau, 8-3, to move a win away from sweeping the preliminary round.

Guam and Palau started the hostilities in the KOD "Tournament of Champions" with the former escaping with a 14-11 triumph in Game 1. Guam was playing Pohnpei in Game 4 at press time, thus results were unavailable. The last two matches in the preliminary round will have Pohnpei dueling Palau in Game 5 and Saipan challenging Guam in Game 6.

If Saipan wins, the host will gain the top seeding in today's playoffs and will face the No. 4-ranked squad for the first finals seat. The No. 2 and 3 squads will be contest the other finals ticket.

The first semis game will be played at 10am, while the second one is set for 11am. A home srun derby is scheduled for 12pm, while the championship match is slated for 1pm.

Saipan is hoping to regain the championship it lost in last year's KOD finale. The host ruled the first three staging of KOD before Da Boyz of Guam ended that streak, following a 10-0 blowout win over Belau Meyuns at the Meyuns Field in Palau last year.

Each of the four islands competing in the KOD finale held their own qualifying tournaments to determine their representatives to this weekend tournament.

In the Saipan leg, SaiPal bested two other teams, Advance X-Terminators and Kulan Zamu, in the qualifier to advance to the grand finale. SaiPal is composed of Payton Sakuma, Clifton Sillil, Lefty Shiro, J.D. Dikito, Leo Bobai, Didi Tudela, Hector Efraim, Kuich Damian, Beverly Ngirmekur, Gloyd Martin, and Lawrence Dikito.

28 GRAPPLERS

From Page 28

seven categories will battle in No Gi (bare back or rash guard and shorts or kimono pants) submission Jiu Jitsu. The top 3 finishers in each category will receive gold, silver, and bronze medals," Alvarez said.

"No Gi" Jiu Jitsu is a kind of mixed martial arts similar to submission wrestling takedowns or resemble those of Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling.

Alvarez added the one-day affair, which will run from 9am to 5pm will feature an exhibition kimono (Gi) match between Russia's Sergei Yashkin and Guam's Luis "The Shreddar" Blanco.

In Gi bouts, combatants have to wear kimono-like uniforms with tighter cuffs on the pants and jacket. This uniform allows a fighter to benefit from a closer fit, providing less material for an opponent to manipulate.

Yashkin is a brown belt in Sambo/Jiu Jitsu from Verbin Fight Club and his Guamanian opponent is fighting out from The Pound BJJ. Academy.

Besides the featured "super fight" between Yashkin and Blanco, another highly-anticipated bout will be the finals in the heavyweight division. Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial is aiming to defend his heavyweight crown after prevailing over Francis Mendiola in the gold medal game in Art of War 3 early this year.

Combatants still interested in today's event can still register before the first bout begins at 9am. Registration fee is $25 and each fighter will receive a competitor T-shirt. Individuals wishing to watch the bouts must pay $5 entrance fee.

Meanwhile, Alvarez is reminding MMA fans that Trench Warz 11 "Redemption" is set for Dec.18 at the Saipan World Resort.

Trench Tech's final offering for 2009 will have Jason "Rush" Tarkong dueling heavy hitter Gil "The Guamaniac" Meno of Guam in one of the double main events set for next month's Trench Warz 11.

For more information on Art of War 4 and other Trench Tech fights, contact Alvarez at (670)-483-4MMA or via e-mail at trenchwarriorsaipan@yahoo.com.

Below are the fighters entered in various weight categories:

Bantamweight: Paulo Gracie, Jeremy Gracie, Shane Aguon, Shane Alvarez, and Jay Muna.

Featherweight: Alverick Alvarez, Chris Laayug, Tory Mayberry, Mark Nuique, and Mark Anthony Manaluz.

Super lightweight: James Fleming, Sixtus Aquino, Maitai Charley, Derick Rangamar, and Victor Taitano.

Lightweight: Anselmo Iglecias, Fasi Jesse, Pat Ayuyu, Brian Mendiola, Giovanni Sablan, Sergey Yashkin, and Micah Tobias.

Welterweight: Kenji Onuma, Rudy Camacho, Pat Ayuyu, Kinney Blas, Rusty Ada, and Alan Diaz

Middle weight: Jeff Cloud, Pete Mendiola, Jason Tarkong, Darrel Salas, Syl Teregeyo, Ron Chisato, Vance Pangelinan, and Keli Manglona.

Heavyweight: Kelvin Fitial, Slade Adelbai, Victorino Igitol, Tom Castro, Nate Untalan, John Aguon, and Jeff Cloud.

EAGLES

From Page 28

nication as neither hit the leather.

Paul Carlo Samsom tried to keep MBA afloat in the ensuing play when he went for a kill, but was blocked by Chargualaf, giving GCA the first set.

Chargualaf was still a force in the net in the second set, as he gave GCA its first three points on two dinks and a kill.

The Eagles never looked back from thereon, as MBA's usual big hitters, Richard Park, Charlie Jo, and Samson were a bit tentative with their hits. Not even the absence of Taylor and Chargualaf in the closing part of the second set could help the MBA trio force a deciding third set.

After Taylor made an ace, putting GCA six points away from clinching the title, 19-9, Becky Robles replaced Taylor with Will Torres. Chargualaf followed suit with J.J. Lewis taking his place after GCA scored another point. Torres then quickly made his presence felt in the game, nailing a dig and a good return to make it a 22-9 tally. Tenorio's ace moved the Eagles two points away from winning the match, but MBA made one final push to extend the game with a short rally.

Samson and Jo led the Stormz' 6-1 run, cutting GCA's lead to nine, 15-24. The Eagles scored their 24th point on Torres' block off Jo, before Samson answered with a spike and two aces.

GCA sued for time to halt MBA's momentum and when game resumed, both teams had a brief exchange before Samson was called for a holding violation, ending the title match in favor of the Eagles.

"Even though we led by a big margin in the second set, we never thought the match was already ours. When we reached the 20-point mark, that's when we began to feel confident. However, MBA gave us quite a scare when they rallied in the second set. We called a timeout and told the players to keep playing their game, communicate on the court, and hustle for the ball," Becky Robles said.

LOCAL

From Page 28

the opportunity is presenting itself with Cotto.

The happy ending will be this: He (Pacquiao) beats Cotto this Sunday then gets his chance to prove to the world that he is indeed, pound-for-pound, the greatest fighter in the world when he finally faces and beat Floyd Mayweather!

That's all I have to say.

Cuki Alvarez
Trench Tech Gym president

■ ■ ■

Cotto is a tough fighter. But Pacquiao's speed and power will destroy Cotto's defense. It's a knockout in the fourth round.

Ferdie De La Torre
Saipan Tribune reporter

■ ■ ■

I have a very high respect for Manny Pacquiao. I have the same regard for Miguel Cotto as well. Historically, Puerto Rico has produced a long list of great boxers as compared to the Philippines.

I predict the fight will end in the eight round or earlier either for Manny or Miguel.

But if it goes beyond that, it will be for Miguel.

In my scorecard, I wish Manny pulled out from this very tough fight.

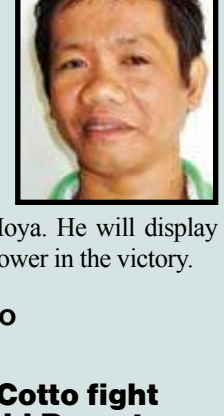
Eli Buenaventura
Calvo's Insurance general manager

■ ■ ■

I predict Pacquiao will win it in 4-5 rounds. He's successfully defended his title against two of the world's best in the last year. He has all the momentum going into it. Cotto will have a hard time staying mentally focused because of Manny's aura

Jeff Boyer
Shell Marianas retail area manager

■ ■ ■



I predict Pacquiao will win by knockout in the eight round. It will be a tough fight. But, I think it will come down to who is the better counter-puncher.

Jim Feger
Rocball creator

■ ■ ■

I'm going all out for Manny Pacquiao. I think he will win by knockout in the sixth round. For me he's the real pound-for-pound king.

Tomas Basa
Elite Printing

■ ■ ■

I'm confident Manny Pacquiao will win his fight against Miguel Cotto. He will again use the in-and-out strategy he used in beating Oscar De La Hoya. He will display his speed and power in the victory.

Nato Blanco
Elite Printing

Pacquiao-Cotto fight live at World Resort

And now Pacquiao fans don't have to be at the MGM Grand to root for their idol, as MCV Broadband will broadcast live "FirePower: Pacquiao vs. Cotto" this Sunday World at Resort Saipan.

MCV Broadband system manager Mark Birmingham said the Susupe landmark has reserved two venues—Royal Taga Hall and Red Box—just for the occasion.

Birmingham said they will be charging $30 per pop for general admission at Royal Taga Hall, while those who chose to watch the fight at Red Box will have to pay $50 but will enjoy hotel's sumptuous brunch buffet.

The whole setup, Birmingham said, will include a giant projector screen and four other 32-inch television sets at Royal Taga Hall.

"All previous Pacquiao fights at World Resort have been very successful with no glitches. World Resort is very experienced and skilled in putting on this type of event and this will be the seventh Pacquiao fight we will be doing at the venue," he said.

James leads Cavs past Heat, 111-104

LeBron James had little to say Thursday about the prospect of playing with Dwyane Wade next season, and that was fine. Having them on the same court was enough of a treat for now. 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Gore, 49ers beat Bears 10-6, ending 4-game skid

Mike Singletary didn't exactly hand it to his old team. That didn't matter—Jay Cutler handed the desperate San Francisco 49ers a much-needed win. 26

Eagles clinch sixth straight title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy completed its domination in the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League after securing the high school division championship.

The Eagles notched a record sixth consecutive title, following a straight sets win over Marianas Baptist Academy in the finals, 25-19, 25-15, yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Eagles high school team's victory in the finals allowed GCA to sweep the volleyball season, as their junior high squad also won a championship last week against Mt. Carmel School.

Luther Taylor and Brandon Chargualaf's presence on the net was simply too much for the MBA Stormz's defense. Taylor and Chargualaf alternately scored powerful spikes and surprised dinks and all MBA could do was watch the duo lift GCA to an easy win.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The GCA Eagles flash the No. 1 sign after beating Marianas Baptist Academy in the finals and ruling the high school division of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Becky Robles, who co-coached the Eagles with husband, Mark, said they were not expecting a straight sets victory.

"MBA-A is a tough team. They had beaten us once and we can't afford to be overconfident, so our focus in the finals was to be on the offensive end most of the time and at the same time limit their hitters," Becky said.

"Our defenders, especially those in the frontline, had to go up strong against MBA's big hitters. They had to be ready every time MBA makes set-up plays.

Taylor and Chargualaf took care of business, offensively, while C.J. Libut, A.J. Batallones, and Michi Tenorio backed up the duo with their defense at the backline and set-up jobs.

GCA won the first set by six points, scoring the last two points off MBA's errors. The Eagles moved a point away from wrapping up the first set when Taylor served and the ball went to the backline between two MBA players, who lost commu-

See EAGLES on Page 27

28 grapplers entered in Art of War 4

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Twenty-eight fighters will showcase their "No Gi" Jiu Jitsu skills in today's Art of War 4 All Island Grappling/ Submissions Challenge 2009 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

According to Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez, 15 competitors from Saipan and 12 from Guam will be featured in seven different weight classes, namely the bantamweight division (100lbs-130lbs), featherweight(131lbs-140lbs),super lightweight (141lbs-150lbs), lightweight (151lbs-160lbs), welterweight (161lbs-180-lbs), middleweight (181lbs-200lbs), and heavyweight (201lbs and above).

"All competitors in the

See 28 GRAPPLERS on Page 27

Pacquiao, Cotto hold their fire

BOXING

LAS VEGAS—After all the exchange of words by the trainers of the two boxers who will cross paths this Saturday at the MGM Grand here, you'd think that verbal fireworks would highlight the final press conference before fight night.

Taking their cues from their fighters, however, Manny Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach and Miguel Cotto coach Joe Santiago limited their show of bravado to a single statement each Wednesday afternoon.

"Miguel, good luck to you and your camp and we'll see you Saturday night," Roach said at the podium during the press conference.

It was a far cry from the verbal volleys Roach launched weeks before traveling to this gambling hotspot, when the three-time Trainer of the Year minced no words in trying to get under the skin of Team Cotto.

"We're in great shape for the fight," added Roach.

For his part, the 32-year-old Joe Santiago skipped the opportunity to unload his own barrage at the guy who had offered nothing but disparaging remarks about his ability to man Cotto's corner.

AP

Miguel Cotto, right, of Puerto Rico, and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, pose for photos during a news conference at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009, in Las Vegas.

Instead, the former nutritionist trained his peashooters at Pacquiao.

"Good luck Manny, you're going to need it," said Santiago.

Santiago got into a verbal war with Roach after the Pacquiao mentor predicted that his ward would knock Miguel Cotto out cold in one round.

After Santiago dismissed the prediction, Roach refused to ease up on his verbal assault, describing Santiago as someone "who doesn't know what it takes to be in the ring."

"He's never fought in his life, not a single fight," Roach said.

"He puts a towel on his shoulder and gives his guy a drink and he thinks he's a coach."

Pacquiao and Cotto set the tone of the press conference by expressing respect for each other.

"I know Manny's skill, that's why I trained hard for this fight,"

See PACQUIAO on Page 27

Local fight fans rooting for Pacman

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

It's no mystery that local boxing aficionados are rooting for the Philippines' Manny Pacquiao in his welterweight title fight against Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico this Sunday at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The hot topic for debate, however, is what round the boxing world's undisputed pound-for-pound king will knock out his opponent. *Saipan Tribune* interviewed local prognosticators recently and this is what they have to say:

■ ■ ■

I'm all for the Pacman! His Cinderella story has to have a happy ending and

See LOCAL on Page 27